United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

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Introduction

1. My annual report on the work of the Organization reviews the efforts of the United Nations to find constructive solutions to the fundamental problems of our age. It is a sober recognition of the complexities of the tasks facing the Organization. At the same time, it underlines the enduring significance of the United Nations as an instrument of global cooperation for the common good.

2. The dawn of the new millennium brought an historic reaffirmation by Member States of the purposes and principles of their Organization. At the Millennium Summit, held from 6 to 8 September 2000 in New York, 147 heads of State and Government, and 189 Member States in total, adopted the Millennium Declaration, pledging their collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level. In my report to the General Assembly entitled "Road map towards the implementation of the Millennium Declaration", I offer a programme for meeting those ambitious objectives.

3. One of the United Nations strengths is its capacity to adjust to changing international conditions. We must preserve this tradition of innovation while maintaining the principles of the Charter, which have guided the Organization for 56 years. We must prepare for the possibilities of the future and meet the new demands made on the United Nations.

4. During the past year, we have witnessed striking contrasts on the international scene, both encouraging developments and dangerous threats. These mixed global trends are a reminder that the pursuit of international peace and progress requires the sustained commitment and engagement of the community of nations.

5. Today, universal ideas — the sovereignty of the people, accountability of leaders, individual rights, and the rule of law — are spreading around the world. Yet there is no guarantee that these values will not be reversed, and that some nations will not once again succumb to tyranny and oppression.

6. The chapters of this report present a comprehensive review of the various activities of the United Nations system in pursuit of common objectives. The United Nations role in peace and security remains an essential part of its global responsibilities. Conflict prevention is of critical importance and requires a comprehensive understanding of the underlying causes and dynamics of violent conflict. The Organization's authority as a credible instrument to prevent conflict depends on its capacity to address the root causes of deadly conflict.

7. The United Nations is about much more than peace and security. The value of the Organization in providing humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable in natural disasters and complex emergencies has frequently been affirmed.

8. As I have stressed often, development cooperation is a solid foundation on which to build stability, economic justice and social development. The nature and scope of the development challenge will require an unprecedented level of financial commitment and international cooperation. The United Nations has assisted in developing policies and tools to tackle the problems involved and to construct the building blocks of sustainable peace.

9. The quest of the United Nations to build a world of order and justice can be achieved only through respect for the rule of law in international affairs. The growth of international law, the ratification of international treaties, and the prosecution of war criminals by international tribunals will help to ensure that ruthless force does not prevail.

10. Management reform within the United Nations should always be viewed as a work in progress in which constant efforts are made to enhance the Organization's effectiveness, efficiency and relevance.

11. In an increasingly globalized world, none of the critical issues we are dealing with can be resolved within a solely national framework. All of them require cooperation, partnership and burden-sharing among Governments, the United Nations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society. The United Nations has made important efforts to forge global partnerships to promote the international interest, but we need to reach out still further.

12. On 29 June 2001, Member States did me great honour in appointing me to a second term as Secretary-General. We have achieved a great deal over the past five years. I firmly believe, however, that we can and must do better.

13. The United Nations is an embodiment of the will of humankind to defeat violence with the power of reason and to achieve some betterment of the human condition. Its Member States work together to make principle and justice prevail in world affairs. I am confident that, with the active support of Member States and the peoples of the world, the United Nations will fulfil its promise as an indispensable institution for international cooperation.

Chapter I
Achieving peace and security

14. The United Nations activities in peace and security have been conducted against a background of suffering caused by virulent conflicts across the world. These conflicts involve a preponderance of civilian rather than combatant victims, many of them women and children; massive movements of refugees and internally displaced persons; increasingly complex (though widely varying) conflict-sustaining economies; and a ready access to weapons of all kinds, particularly small arms, which have a devastating impact on people and societies throughout the world. Such conflicts threaten stability, undermine human security, inflict suffering on many millions of people and damage local and regional economies, infrastructures and the environment, in ways that will have consequences for decades to come.

15. The United Nations has an obligation to prevent the outbreak of armed conflict wherever and whenever possible. To this end, I have reinforced my efforts to move the United Nations from a culture of reaction to one of prevention. In June 2001, I submitted a major report on the prevention of armed conflict to the General Assembly and the Security Council (A/55/985-S/2001/574 and Corr.1), in which I reviewed the progress that has been achieved in developing the capacity of the United Nations to prevent conflict and presented specific recommendations to enhance the efforts of the United Nations system in this field.

16. Where the United Nations is involved in peacekeeping or peace-building, preventing the recurrence of conflict is a central priority. In most cases today, our mandates for peacekeeping extend beyond the classic missions of the past, where lightly armed forces were interposed between armies, and involve providing assistance to local authorities in a wide range of areas. They may include humanitarian relief and mine action; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants; training of the police and judiciary; monitoring human rights; providing electoral assistance and strengthening national institutions to ensure that future problems can be resolved by democratic means without recourse to violence. In East Timor and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, where the United Nations heads transitional administrations, our responsibilities are still greater.

17. The field operations that conduct this broad array of tasks rely upon the support structures of the United Nations Secretariat to achieve their goals. As was ably documented by the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305-S/2000/809), the current structures came into being through improvisation. In many respects they are insufficient, or poorly adapted to real needs. While many peacekeeping successes have been achieved, those involved have often had to make enormous efforts to overcome the deficiencies of existing structures.

18. As a result of the findings of the Panel on Peace Operations, the international community has begun to work towards the creation of secure and adequate foundations for an effective structure to support United Nations peace operations. Part of my own contribution has been to submit to the General Assembly a comprehensive review of all the elements within the Secretariat that play a role in peacekeeping operations (A/55/977). I have also charged my staff with the preparation of a draft plan of action on peace-building. The plan, now being finalized, is a practical guide for the United Nations system on how Headquarters can best support colleagues in the field in the formulation and implementation of coherent peace-building strategies.

19. In this respect, I warmly endorse the observation made by the President of the Security Council in his statement of 20 February 2001 that "a well-planned and coordinated peace-building strategy can play a significant role in conflict prevention" (S/PRST/2001/5). I welcome the Security Council's growing interest in the protection of civilians, in particular of women and children, and its focused attention on issues such as HIV/AIDS. We have learned that, within the United Nations system, efforts to prevent conflict and to keep and build peace must be driven by realities in the field, underpinned by rigorous situation analysis, and sustained by timely and targeted support from Headquarters as well as adequate resources from Member States. I am optimistic that the efforts made in the last year to lay out our requirements for achieving peace and security will contribute substantially to achieving the pledges made in the Millennium Declaration, provided the necessary resources are made available by Member States.

Conflict prevention and peacemaking

20. While comprehensive and coherent conflict prevention strategies offer the greatest potential for promoting lasting peace, they have never been easy to formulate or to implement. I have been gratified to note that in recent years Member States are turning increasing attention and providing more assistance to conflict prevention. For the United Nations, the concept of conflict prevention must be put into practice, and the rhetoric matched by action.

21. My report on the prevention of armed conflict contains concrete recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of various United Nations organs, bodies, agencies and Secretariat departments and to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society in conflict prevention. It underlines that the development and humanitarian agencies of the United Nations system, together with the Bretton Woods institutions, have a vital role to play in creating a peaceful environment, as well as addressing the root causes of conflicts at the early stages of prevention. I intend to continue dispatching United Nations inter-disciplinary fact-finding and confidence-building missions to volatile regions; to start submitting periodic regional or subregional reports to the Security Council on disputes that may potentially threaten international peace and security; to develop regional prevention strategies with regional partners, and organs and agencies of the United Nations, as appropriate; to establish an informal network of eminent persons for conflict prevention; and to improve the capacity and resource base for preventive action in the Secretariat. I look forward to constructive dialogue with Member States on the contributions that we may make together in the effort to ensure that a culture of prevention takes root in the international community.

22. In West Africa, the United Nations has intensified its partnership with the countries of the region. Collectively, we have concentrated on identifying potential threats to peace and are cooperating to prevent such challenges from deteriorating into violent conflict. This was the goal of the multidisciplinary missions I sent to the Gambia in November 2000 and to West Africa in March 2001. The Gambia's international partners have since undertaken to work closely with the country, within the framework of an integrated preventive strategy, to help strengthen the Gambia's capacity to avert a worsening of conditions. As a result of the second mission, a United Nations Office in West Africa will be established, headed by a Special Representative. The office will aim to enhance the United Nations capacity for monitoring, early warning and conflict prevention in the subregion and work closely with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and other partners.

23. In an effort to expand the benefits of an integrated regional approach, I dispatched senior envoys to the Central African Republic and Côte d'Ivoire at moments when the two countries faced acute tension and friction late in 2000. Their respective efforts gave us a more detailed understanding of the situation. The International Commission of Inquiry for Côte d'Ivoire, which I set up at the request of the Government to look into the violence that followed the presidential elections held on 22 October 2000, has completed its work. Its mission was to facilitate justice and prevent impunity, and also to promote healing and reconciliation within Ivorian society. In December 2000, I sent my Special Envoy to assess the impact of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on two of its immediate neighbours, the Central African Republic and the Republic of the Congo. The mission was also designed as a confidence-building measure to promote cooperation among the countries concerned in addressing common challenges along their shared borders.

24. The Millennium Declaration called for enhanced institutional cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. The utility of such an approach has been demonstrated in West Africa. Nowhere was this more evident than in the Mano River basin, where the United Nations, in collaboration with the three Mano River Union countries and ECOWAS, actively participated in addressing complex humanitarian, political and security situations affecting Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. I have particularly supported ECOWAS initiatives to promote dialogue among the three countries, in the belief that, without such dialogue, efforts to address the root causes of the subregion's problems will remain insufficient and ineffective. Since the imposition of sanctions in May 2001, I have also stressed the importance of remaining engaged with Liberia in the pursuit of durable peace in the subregion.

25. Elsewhere in Africa, impetus was given to efforts to resolve two long-standing conflicts. In Burundi, the

signing of the Arusha Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation on 28 August 2000 brought new momentum to the peace process. As stipulated in the Agreement, an Implementation Monitoring Committee was established under United Nations chairmanship to follow up, monitor, supervise, coordinate and ensure the effective implementation of all provisions of the Agreement. I appointed my Special Representative for the Great Lakes region as its chairman. The issue of the transitional leadership has since been resolved and a transitional government is expected to be established on 1 November 2001. However, the absence of a ceasefire remains an impediment to the implementation of the Arusha Agreement. I remain hopeful that the negotiations between the armed rebel groups and the Government of Burundi, facilitated by the Deputy President of South Africa, Jacob Zuma, on behalf of former President Nelson Mandela will soon prove successful.

26. The establishment of the Transitional National Government of Somalia, as a result of the Djibouti initiative, and its move to Mogadishu in October 2000, marked an important step in the effort to end the conflict in Somalia. Unfortunately, the lack of progress in completing the peace process and the precarious security situation in much of Somalia have so far prevented me from recommending to the Security Council the establishment of a United Nations peace-building mission in the country. We remain ready to assist whenever conditions permit and I urge the international community to remain engaged in the search for an end to Somalia's long nightmare.

27. I cannot report significant changes in Angola, where the war continues to cause intense suffering. The Government has indicated a willingness to resume dialogue with UNITA with a view to completing the remaining tasks under the Lusaka Protocol. Both sides have reiterated their commitment to the Lusaka Protocol, although they continue to disagree on how to complete its implementation. My Adviser for Special Assignments in Africa continues to pay special attention to Angola. The United Nations remains ready to assist the Government and others concerned to end the war, and to provide technical assistance for the elections to be held in 2002 and maintain its programmes of humanitarian relief and capacity-building in the field of human rights.

28. In the Middle East, the deteriorating situation in the region, resulting in the worst crisis since the signing of the Oslo Agreement in 1993, remains a source of great concern for the international community. The outbreak of violence in the occupied Palestinian territory and in Israel late in September 2000 has brought extensive loss of life and serious decline of the economic conditions on both sides, as well as a devastating deterioration of the humanitarian situation for the Palestinians. In view of the gravity of the situation and its negative implications for international peace and security, I have devoted much of my personal attention to this issue. I have maintained close and regular contacts with the parties and other leaders in the region and the international community to find a way forward. I visited the region in October 2000 to explore avenues to end the violence and to revive the peace process. I worked with the parties and the leaders of the United States of America, the European Union, Egypt and Jordan to reach an understanding at the Sharm el-Sheikh Summit on the steps required to end the confrontation. The report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-finding Committee, known as the Mitchell report, which was released in April, provided a viable basis for a return to the negotiating table, and I fully endorsed its recommendations. In June 2001, I went again to the Middle East to encourage the parties to consolidate the ceasefire agreement and move towards full implementation of the Mitchell report.

29. The conflict between Israelis and Palestinians can be resolved only through a political settlement. To this end, I once again urge both sides to end violence, adhere to the security agreements already agreed upon and restart a viable political process leading to peace and reconciliation.

30. The dramatic developments during the year under review and the tragic loss of life have underlined the urgency of reaching a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Middle East conflict on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

31. In view of Iraq's continuing non-compliance with Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 1284 (1999), the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission has not been deployed. It remains a great concern that, since December 1998, the United Nations has not been able to verify Iraq's adherence to Security Council resolutions regarding weapons of mass destruction. Moreover, Iraq continues its non-cooperation with the

High-level Coordinator, who is seeking to repatriate all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and secure the return of Kuwaiti property. I deeply regret the continuing suffering of the Iraqi people and share their hopes that sanctions can be lifted sooner rather than later. While I am prepared to resume my dialogue with the Government of Iraq, a first round of which was held in February 2001, Iraq must reconsider its non-cooperation with the Security Council if it wishes to make progress towards an eventual lifting of the sanctions.

32. Little or no progress has been made towards ending the conflict in Afghanistan, despite the tireless efforts of my Personal Representative to bring the warring parties to the negotiating table. In the year under review, a severe drought has added to the woes of the Afghan people and the humanitarian crisis now afflicting the country has contributed to a sense of hopelessness, further aggravating the plight of Afghan civilians, particularly women and girls, under the harsh policies of the Taliban regime. This conflict, like so many others we face around the world, cannot be considered in isolation from its regional context. A solution can be advanced only with the active and coordinated support of neighbouring States, especially the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, and other members of the "six plus two" group of countries. A more coordinated approach by the international community will be required if significant progress in addressing the problems of Afghanistan is to be achieved.

33. Over the past two years, sporadic fighting, including hostage-taking, initiated by extremist and terrorist forces has affected some countries in Central Asia. These isolated but worrisome developments are related in part to the situation in Afghanistan and in part to other factors such as deteriorating economic conditions and the resulting social tensions. In cooperation with Member States in the region and other interested parties, the United Nations is prepared to offer assistance in the political, developmental and humanitarian fields in order to address the root causes of instability.

34. In March 2001, I visited several countries in South Asia. In my meetings with the leaders of India and Pakistan, I urged them to resume their bilateral dialogue with a view to reducing tensions in the region, including Kashmir. I was greatly encouraged that the leaders of India and Pakistan held a summit meeting at Agra in July. I hope that the useful discussions held there will continue and develop into a sustained dialogue. While I remain concerned at the unresolved civil war in Sri Lanka, I hope that the good offices of Norway will soon result in the initiation of peace talks.

35. In East Asia, I am pleased to report that a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Bougainville has been reached. Following talks between the Government of Papua New Guinea and the Bougainville parties, facilitated by the United Nations Political Office in Bougainville, a comprehensive agreement covering the issues of autonomy, referendum and weapons disposal was reached on 22 June 2001. The involvement of regional countries and the consistent support of the Security Council were crucial to the achievement of this agreement.

36. In the implementation of the mandate entrusted to me by the General Assembly, my Special Envoy and I have continued to encourage the Government of Myanmar to engage in a substantive dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in order to achieve national reconciliation and to return the country to democratic rule. During the year under review, a number of steps have been taken to build confidence between the two sides. The United Nations is committed to continuing to facilitate the dialogue and looks forward to further progress.

37. Together with relevant agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, I intend to enhance our efforts to assist Indonesia as it seeks to establish a democratic society and to address the wide range of complex issues facing the country. It is my firm belief that Indonesia's territorial integrity can best be assured by adherence to democratic norms and the promotion of human rights. To this end, efforts should be made to support the reform process that the Government is implementing, as well as to help find peaceful resolutions to the problems in regions such as Aceh, Maluku and West Papua.

38. I shall also continue to search for ways and means to contribute to inter-Korean rapprochement and other positive developments in the region. I believe that the international community should take active measures to foster peace and stability in this region and urge Member States to consider further support for promoting dialogue, trust and reconciliation on the peninsula.

39. In Europe, proximity talks on Cyprus with the parties, led by Glafcos Clerides and Rauf Denktash, proceeded under my auspices until November 2000. However, Mr. Denktash asked that no date be set for talks early in 2001. Although it was not possible to resume talks immediately, my Special Adviser continued to hold consultations with a number of Governments and organizations, making preparations to be of further assistance to the parties at the appropriate time. Late in August, I met Mr. Denktash at Salzburg with a view to moving towards an early resumption of the process.

40. My Special Representative for Georgia, in cooperation with the Russian Federation as facilitator, the members of the group of Friends of the Secretary-General for Georgia, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, has continued his efforts to pursue a comprehensive settlement of the Georgian/Abkhaz conflict. The two sides were able to agree on a series of concrete confidence-building steps at the Third High-level Meeting on Confidence-Building Measures, which was held at Yalta in March 2001 at the invitation of the Government of Ukraine.

41. In Latin America, my Special Adviser on International Assistance to Colombia maintained regular contacts in Colombia and abroad. Peace talks between the Government and the two largest guerrilla groups proceeded intermittently throughout the year. Nevertheless, the violence intensified, resulting in frequent violations of human rights and in growing numbers of internally displaced persons. Analysts have warned that fighting, displacement and drug cultivation are likely to increase and spread further beyond the borders of Colombia. The United Nations stands ready, at the request of the parties to the conflict, to assist further in promoting a peaceful resolution. It is my hope that the parties will take urgent measures to cease violence against the unarmed civilian population and to ensure full respect for human rights and international humanitarian law. I also remain concerned at the adverse environmental effects that the cultivation of drug crops, the processing of narcotics and forced eradication efforts have had. The combination of counter-narcotics and counter-insurgency efforts poses the risk of a regional arms race and could lead to a spread of fighting, displacement and drug cultivation beyond the borders of Colombia.

Peacekeeping and peace-building

42. While the conflicts that United Nations peacekeeping operations seek to address are complex and daunting, I am gratified to report that the international community has shown a renewed appreciation for the value of United Nations peacekeeping, a determination to acknowledge openly and learn from peacekeeping failures and successes, and an increased commitment to give peacekeepers the tools and resources they need to accomplish their missions.

43. The key factors for successful peacekeeping remain the will of parties on the ground; realistic mandates based on a well-understood and common overall strategy; and readiness to support those mandates politically and through the provision of appropriate human and material resources. To have a lasting impact, peacekeeping must be supported and accompanied by a process of peace-building, to prevent the recurrence of armed conflict and permit recovery and development.

44. Over the past year, the Secretariat has sought to lay secure and adequate foundations for an effective peacekeeping structure while providing daily direction and support to the operations in the field. The report of the Panel on Peace Operations and its subsequent endorsement by the Millennium Summit gave this reform process, rooted in an ongoing dialogue with Member States, renewed focus and momentum. My initial report on the implementation of the Panel's recommendations, presented in October 2000, offered a number of practical measures to support the broad objectives identified by the Panel. Member States responded positively to many of my suggestions and provided significant additional resources to the Secretariat for peacekeeping. They also requested more detail in a number of areas, however, and underlined their interest in a further, comprehensive review of the Secretariat's peacekeeping capacity. In response, on 1 June 2001, I issued a second report (A/55/977).

45. My second report adopted the comprehensive approach requested by Member States, and proposed further steps for improving peacekeeping capacity. These included proposals for enhancing the Secretariat's planning capacity at three levels — strategic, policy and operational — in order to move from a reactive mode towards advanced planning. In addition, I outlined measures to develop a more

effective relationship between Headquarters and the field; to ensure a closer collaboration between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and other departments in the Secretariat engaged in supporting peacekeeping; to enhance logistical support for operations in order to achieve the 30-day to 90-day time frames for deployment recommended by the Panel on Peace Operations; to develop within the Secretariat a more effective capacity for analysis that can draw upon the wealth of information available from open sources and from within the Organization; and to improve the safety and security of peacekeepers in the field.

46. Implementation of these reforms will make demands upon the Secretariat and on Member States. Some of the measures proposed will require immediate investment for future benefits, while others will require political compromise. Nonetheless, I am convinced that their adoption will improve our capacity to respond to the demands that will be made of us.

47. In addition to underlining the need to enhance United Nations peacekeeping capacity, the Member States resolved, in the section of the Millennium Declaration on meeting the special needs of Africa, "to encourage and sustain regional and subregional mechanisms for preventing conflict and promoting political stability, and to ensure a reliable flow of resources for peacekeeping operations on the continent".

48. While African States and regional and subregional organizations have shown a growing interest in playing a role in peacekeeping operations in Africa, the limited resources available to them continue to be a major impediment. Support for building African peacekeeping capacity can take the form of assistance to specific operations or of incremental steps to enhance capability — for example, provision by the international community of information, expertise and logistical and financial resources. The Secretariat's efforts in this regard have included cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, the Economic Community of West African States, the Southern Africa Development Community and, more recently, the Economic Community of Central African States in areas such as training, information-sharing, staff exchanges, and participation in regional peacekeeping exercises, as well as the strengthening of the United Nations standby arrangements system and mine action programmes. The Secretariat has also continued to facilitate contacts between African troop contributors to United Nations operations and donor States, and to promote agreement between African and non-African States regarding assistance.

49. The international community should be conscious, however, that efforts to enhance African peacekeeping capacity cannot become a justification for reduced engagement in the continent. Support by non-African States for peacemaking and peacekeeping efforts in Africa, including deployment of peacekeeping troops, will remain essential in the foreseeable future. The experience of United Nations peacekeeping operations in Africa during the year under review demonstrates this most vividly.

50. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, President Laurent-Désiré Kabila was succeeded in January 2001 by his son, General Joseph Kabila. Since then, the situation has undergone a marked change. The ceasefire under the Lusaka Agreement was re-established and has remained in force without major violations. Deployment of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) has continued without incident. Prospects also improved on the political front after President Joseph Kabila invited Sir Ketumile Masire to resume his work as facilitator of the inter-Congolese dialogue, upon which peace and stability in the country depend.

51. MONUC is now entering the phase of the implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement during which all foreign forces should be withdrawn from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the armed groups disarmed, demobilized and reintegrated or repatriated. The Security Council has authorized the expansion of the civilian components of MONUC to enable it to play a larger role, particularly in the political, humanitarian, human rights and child-protection areas. This is an important development as the humanitarian problems faced by the country, all of them exacerbated by the conflict, are very serious. Some 16 million people are affected by severe shortages of food; millions of children suffer from malnutrition; more than a third of the population lacks access to even basic medical care, and half has no access to clean water; and serious violations of human rights continue to be reported throughout the country.

52. In implementing its peacekeeping mandate in Sierra Leone and in cooperation with regional leaders,

the United Nations has continued to pursue a dual-track approach, combining credible military pressure with constructive political dialogue. With the recent arrival of additional troops, the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) has consolidated its presence in nearly all parts of the country. Considerable progress has been made in the implementation of the Agreement on Ceasefire and Cessation of Hostilities between the Government and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), signed at Abuja in November 2000, as a result of a number of follow-up meetings between the parties, UNAMSIL and ECOWAS. The ceasefire has held, and over 13,000 combatants from both pro-Government forces and RUF were disarmed from May to August 2001 under a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. Peace consolidation and confidence-building measures taken by the Government have included the release of some RUF detainees and other steps to help facilitate the transformation of RUF into a political party. In July 2001, the Government indicated its intention to seek Parliamentary approval for a second six-month extension of its current term of office, which will expire at the end of September 2001. The Government has just announced an indefinite postponement of elections. In the area of addressing impunity and promoting reconciliation, planning for the establishment of the Special Court and a Truth and Reconciliation Commission is under way. As the deployment of UNAMSIL nears completion and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme makes further progress, the Government will be expected to step up its efforts to extend its authority across the country, particularly in the diamond-producing areas. Sustained international support remains vital to the success of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process. Moreover, the underlying political problems of the country, which the civil war has exacerbated, will need to be addressed by the Government and people of Sierra Leone.

53. The United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) was launched in September 2000, and has played a key role in helping the two countries emerge from their tragic and destructive war. The tasks of the peacekeepers include the monitoring of the ceasefire, verification of the redeployment of Ethiopian and Eritrean troops, establishment of mine and unexploded ordnance clearance operations, and monitoring of a Temporary Security Zone between the two countries in accordance with the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities signed at Algiers on 18 June 2000. A second Agreement, reached on 12 December 2000, provided for the establishment of a Boundary Commission to delimit and demarcate the common border and so resolve the border dispute which was the immediate cause of the war. The conclusion of the delimitation and demarcation of the border will lead to termination of the peacekeeping mission. The Boundary Commission has now been formally constituted, and it has agreed to a tentative timeline for the first phase of its work, namely, the delimitation of the border.

54. The search for a mutually acceptable solution between the parties in Western Sahara remained the focus of the United Nations efforts to overcome the multiple problems impeding implementation of the settlement plan. After meeting with officials of the Government of Morocco to determine if Morocco, as the administrative Power in Western Sahara, was prepared to offer or support some devolution of authority to the Territory that would be substantial and in keeping with international norms, my Personal Envoy presented a draft framework agreement on the status of Western Sahara to the Frente POLISARIO and to the Government of Algeria. In view of the adoption of resolution 1359 (2001) by the Security Council, the parties are expected to meet directly or through proximity talks under the auspices of my Personal Envoy to discuss the draft framework agreement, and negotiate specific changes to the document.

55. The situation along the border between Israel and Lebanon is volatile. While the situation over the past year along the withdrawal line, or "Blue Line", was generally calm, there were tensions and serious breaches of the line connected to the dispute over the Shab'a farms area. The Government of Lebanon has yet to take all the necessary steps to ensure the return of its effective authority throughout the south down to the Blue Line, where the activities of armed elements keep the situation unstable. Persistent Israeli violations of Lebanese airspace have created additional tension. The Security Council has repeatedly called for all parties concerned to respect fully the Blue Line, most recently in resolution 1365 (2001).

56. The functions of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon are now largely those of an observer mission. Accordingly, the Force has commenced a reconfiguration exercise and is reducing its numbers.

57. The United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) has made important strides in ensuring that its core police reforms will be completed by the end of the Mission's mandate. Registration of the country's 24,007 police personnel was completed in May 2001, while final certification with appropriate background checks continues. The Mission's police training programmes are nearing conclusion. The Mission also issued a new policy for monitoring police performance. In response to incidents of mob violence, UNMIBH has taken the lead in establishing training support units, and is seeking to obtain anti-riot equipment. However, the percentage of minority representation in the local police force remains very low. The Mission is in need of donor assistance to meet minority police representation targets in both entities.

58. In the second year of its mandate, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) has focused on the progressive transfer of public administration responsibilities to local control. Steps to ensure this were the holding of municipal elections in October 2000, and my Special Representative's promulgation, early in 2001, of a Constitutional Framework for Provisional Self-Government. This has paved the way for the Kosovo-wide elections that will be held on 17 November 2001. UNMIK continues to encourage all communities, particularly the Kosovo Serb community, to participate in the existing UNMIK-led structures and is urging them to register for elections. With a view to strengthening law and order, one of the major challenges in Kosovo, UNMIK established a new pillar,[1] which combines UNMIK police and the Department of Judicial Affairs into a single structure.

59. UNMIK continues to face critical challenges, such as the protection of the rights of all communities, the return of refugees and internally displaced persons, the issue of the missing and detainees, the adoption of confidence-building measures vis-à-vis the Kosovo Serb community, the development of constructive dialogue with the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the fight against terrorism and organized crime, and the impact of the deteriorating security situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

60. The serious threat posed by mines and unexploded ordnance in Kosovo is being successfully addressed and mitigated; mine action operations are moving towards implementation of an exit strategy in the coming year.

61. The situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is a source of grave concern. The country is riven by an ethnic conflict that threatens to spiral into civil war. The recent crisis, which began last February with a military campaign by ethnic Albanian armed groups, is a result of festering inter-ethnic demographic pressures, internal political dynamics and the links between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and its neighbours, including Kosovo. The crisis is continuing, despite several cessation of hostilities agreements and mediation efforts by the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which remains in the lead. These efforts have my personal support. The Security Council remains seized of the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. I have continued to exchange views on the situation while exploring areas where the United Nations may be of assistance.

62. I reported last year that positive developments on the ground had allowed for two peacekeeping operations, in Tajikistan and the Central African Republic, to be closed down and replaced with smaller peace-building support offices. These offices, like others in Africa and in Guatemala, have continued to lead United Nations efforts to consolidate peace and promote democratization and the rule of law.

63. The United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace-building (UNTOP) provides a political framework and leadership for a variety of peace-building activities in Tajikistan. Together with the country team, in particular the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office has made a significant contribution to mobilizing international support for programmes that create employment and train former irregular fighters as part of their reintegration into civilian life. In May 2001, UNTOP, UNDP and the World Bank convened a successful donor conference in Tokyo, where pledges exceeded $400 million.

64. Working in close cooperation with Governments and civil society, the three United Nations post-conflict peace-building support offices currently operating in

[1] The pillars of UNMIK are police and justice (United Nations); civil administration (United Nations); institution-building (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe); and reconstruction (European Union), each pillar relying on the capabilities and expertise of the lead organization.

Africa, in the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Liberia, are trying to create an enabling political environment for addressing the post-conflict priorities facing the three countries and their fragile democratic institutions. This includes providing the political framework and leadership for integrating the peace-building activities of the United Nations country team, mobilizing international assistance to address pressing economic and social problems, and promoting national reconciliation and dialogue and strengthening local capacities for managing crises. Efforts continue to assist the rebuilding of the judiciary and the legislature, in promoting the rule of law and respect for human rights, and enhancing relations between each country and its neighbours.

65. The United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA) has continued to verify compliance with the peace agreements reached in 1996. The President of Guatemala has frequently reiterated his Government's commitment to the peace process. Yet implementation of the agreements continues to face numerous obstacles and pending commitments have been rescheduled until the end of 2004. In a context of increasing polarization, MINUGUA has encouraged political alliances around the peace agenda in order to foster cooperation between the Government and civil society. At my request, my Chief of Staff travelled to Guatemala recently to underline my concern about the faltering peace process. He expressed my hope that the Government and influential sectors of civil society, specifically the private sector, would enter into a constructive dialogue to overcome the growing polarization in the country. I am convinced that at this political juncture it is necessary to mobilize all efforts to ensure the irreversibility of the peace process. However, unless the Government assumes ownership of and leads that process, democracy in Guatemala will remain fragile and social discontent may increase. While the United Nations will continue to support the implementation of the peace agreements, it cannot and should not become a substitute for the social and political commitments required of Guatemalans to build their future.

66. The International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti (MICAH) has faced serious obstacles during this year. In my final report on the Mission (A/55/905), the mandate of which ended on 6 February 2001, I provided a sobering assessment of the situation in the country and expressed my hope that the Government and the opposition would enter into a political dialogue aimed at reconciliation. For the post-MICAH period, the United Nations has put in place a comprehensive transition programme coordinated by UNDP. The programme emphasizes human rights, favours consensus-building and conflict reduction, and seeks strong civil society participation. Since the closure of MICAH, the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) have taken the lead in international efforts to improve the prospects for negotiations between the Government and the opposition. I welcome the efforts of OAS at mediation and negotiation, and look forward to the outcome of its joint initiative with CARICOM.

67. The engagement of OAS in Haiti exemplifies the close cooperation and coordination of efforts between the United Nations and regional organizations that are required for peace-building. In order to further such cooperation, in February 2001, I convened the fourth high-level meeting between the United Nations and regional organizations on cooperation for peace-building. The meeting adopted a Framework for Cooperation in Peace-building, in which we agreed on guiding principles for cooperation in this field, as well as on possible joint activities.

68. In less than two years since its inception, the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), in partnership with the East Timorese people and in close coordination with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, has made considerable progress towards fulfilling the broad mandate entrusted to it by the Security Council to assist the country in its transition to self-government and to establish conditions for sustainable development, while ensuring security, law and order throughout the territory and providing humanitarian assistance. The 12 months under review have seen intensive activity. Through power-sharing arrangements with UNTAET, the East Timorese have gradually taken charge of government responsibilities. They have also been vested with executive power in a mixed international/Timorese Cabinet, and have exercised legislative responsibilities in an all-Timorese National Council.

69. On 15 September 2001, following the election on 30 August of a Constituent Assembly to prepare a Constitution for an independent and democratic East Timor, the country will enter the final transition phase, with the formation of a new and expanded all-Timorese

Cabinet and the convening of the Constituent Assembly. If so decided by its members, the Constituent Assembly may in due course become the first legislature of an independent East Timor. Once the Constitution is approved and the necessary elections are held, perhaps early in 2002, East Timor will be ready to declare independence, with the Security Council's endorsement. Independence will not, however, precipitate East Timor's abandonment by the international community. Plans are under way for a possible United Nations mission to succeed UNTAET. This new mission would continue to provide a military and police presence and to assist the new Government in those areas that could not be consolidated during UNTAET.

70. I am aware of concern among Member States regarding the level of resources committed to this operation. I am also aware of the comprehensive responsibility the United Nations has assumed in East Timor. I therefore favour a prudent approach that seeks to safeguard the international community's considerable investment in East Timor's future. In the interest of effectiveness, and to ensure that the population of East Timor can build upon the investment made, I believe that once UNTAET is closed down, and after the independence of East Timor is declared, substantial international support should continue to be provided, through an integrated and well-coordinated mission led by a Special Representative, mandated by the Security Council and funded from assessed contributions.

71. United Nations peace-building activities continue to be strengthened by increasingly dynamic cooperation and coordination across the system. This cooperation is perhaps best exemplified at the field level, where peace operations interact regularly with the different entities of the United Nations system engaged in peace-building and preventive work, including emergency operations led by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other relief agencies, and the long-term work of entities like UNDP. Work in the field of human rights is of particular importance for both early warning and peace-building. In this regard, cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights by the human rights component of a peacekeeping operation or with the High Commissioner's own field presence is of paramount importance to the Organization's work.

Electoral assistance

72. Requests for United Nations electoral assistance have increased during the year under review. Major electoral missions were conducted in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, East Timor and Sierra Leone. In November 2000, local elections were successfully held in Kosovo, where area-wide elections are currently being prepared. Assistance to the Peruvian electoral process culminated in the completion of the second round of presidential voting early in June 2001.

73. Several elections that have been held during the past year suggest important progress towards democratization. In Côte d'Ivoire, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Peru, incumbent regimes organized elections in the expectation that voters would simply renew their mandates as they had done in the past. In each case, the electorate voted out the regime or protested so strongly against attempts by the incumbents to remain in office that they eventually submitted their resignations. In the Philippines, popular protests spurred by allegations of corruption toppled the President. These examples suggest that public awareness of democratic rights — such as freedom of the press, the rule of law, and free and fair elections — is rising, and that citizens are beginning to act upon this awareness. They are holding their leaders accountable. Moreover in the era of globalization, when information moves instantaneously around the world, each instance of successful popular action reinforces and invigorates others.

74. This change has had important repercussions for United Nations electoral assistance. The emphasis on capacity-building will continue, but assistance will also be more specifically targeted to supporting particular institutions and stimulating greater local participation. In Nigeria, for example, an innovative project is providing encouragement and support to Nigerian civil society in designing and implementing civic education programmes.

Disarmament

75. In the Millennium Declaration, world leaders resolved to strive to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and to reduce the global risks posed by small arms and landmines. Uncertainties about the status of the strategic relationship between the leading nuclear-

weapon Powers and continuing divergence of views among States on priorities and perspectives, however, continue to inform the debate and block further movement on global security and disarmament.

76. Global military expenditures have continued to rise, the increase occurring in some industrialized countries and in a number of developing countries. Although official development assistance levels have continued to fall during the year, military budgets have risen persistently. Conservative estimates suggest that annual military expenditures exceed $800 billion, or 80 per cent of average cold war global military expenditures.

77. The level of international cooperation in disarmament remains disappointingly low. This is especially evident in the Conference on Disarmament — a crucial part of the multilateral disarmament machinery — where in 2001 no consensus on a programme of work could be reached. I hope that the appointment by the Conference of three special coordinators will help to bring about some forward movement next year. Several multilateral agreements still await either entry into force or effective implementation. The historic agreements reached at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons have yet to be fully realized.

78. Although 161 States have signed and 79 States have ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the challenges that confront its entry into force still persist. At the request of the majority of the States parties, I have decided to convene the second Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Treaty, which will be held in New York from 25 to 27 September 2001. It is my hope that the prevailing global moratorium on nuclear testing will be strictly observed pending the Treaty's entry into force.

79. I am concerned that plans to deploy national missile defences threaten not only current bilateral and multilateral arms control agreements but also ongoing and future disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. In order to avert a new arms race, I encourage continuing consultation on these issues. Multilateral negotiations towards legally binding, irreversible and verifiable disarmament agreements are essential.

80. Multilaterally negotiated norms against missile proliferation would considerably reduce the threat posed by ballistic missiles armed with conventional weapons or weapons of mass destruction. At the General Assembly's request, I have convened a panel of governmental experts to review and report in 2002 on the issue of missiles in all its aspects.

81. Negotiations on a verification protocol to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention, enhance its effectiveness, and promote a higher degree of transparency have not led to agreement. It is expected that the work to strengthen the Convention will be addressed at the Fifth Review Conference of the Parties, scheduled to begin on 19 November 2001. The Chemical Weapons Convention has played a vital role in international efforts to eliminate the dangers posed by weapons of mass destruction, to curb their proliferation and to achieve their elimination. Increased effort is required to ensure the Convention's universality, and continued political and financial support for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is vital to ensuring that its mandated tasks are effectively and efficiently carried out.

82. The dangerous global prevalence of small arms and light weapons has attracted increasing attention in recent years. The United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held from 9 to 20 July 2001, mobilized Governments, regional organizations, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and civil society, and provided an historic opportunity for international debate on the illicit small arms trade. The Programme of Action, which was adopted by consensus, is a significant first step towards the goal of preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. It included guidelines for practical action at the national, regional and international levels. The Conference did not achieve consensus on all issues, however. I encourage Governments to continue work on those issues and urge Member States to act upon the key recommendations of the Conference.

83. Member States are increasingly requesting the Secretariat to implement practical disarmament measures in the context of peace-building efforts. Weapons collection projects and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes have been developed in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. Although a lack of adequate resources continues to hamper their work, regional centres for peace and disarmament have expanded their activities

and initiated the provision of advisory and training services. Efforts are under way to seek more contributions from interested Member States in order to cope with growing requests for assistance.

84. Adherence to the amended Protocol II to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons has grown, the total number of States which have adhered to the amended Protocol II now being 58. An additional 12 countries acceded to or ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-personnel Mines, while States parties continued to work towards its implementation. It is estimated that production of landmines has all but ceased, transfer of anti-personnel landmines has sharply dropped, and existing stockpiles in many countries are steadily being destroyed. By the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, in September 2000, 25 States parties had completed the destruction of their mines, and elimination was ongoing in 24 others.

Sanctions

85. The risk of adverse effects of sanctions on innocent populations or third parties highlights the tension inherent in the Organization's dual mandate to preserve international peace and to protect human needs. Sanctions should be forceful enough to persuade targeted leaders to move towards political compliance, but not so severe as to precipitate humanitarian distress that undermines the viability of the policy and of the instrument itself.

86. I welcome the continued development of the concept of targeted sanctions, evident in the sanctions measures that the Security Council has imposed during the year under review. In December 2000, by resolution 1333 (2000), the Council extended the flight ban and added an arms embargo to the targeted financial sanctions previously imposed against the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. In March 2001, by resolution 1343 (2001), the Council imposed a travel ban and an embargo on diamonds from Liberia. In both cases, the Security Council sought to focus pressure on those responsible for behaviour that contravened international norms of peace and security, while minimizing the impact of its action on civilian populations and affected third States.

87. The recommendations of the Security Council informal Working Group on General Issues on Sanctions should prove a valuable contribution to the sanctions debate. In the meantime, I warmly welcome the continued use of investigative panels to document sanctions violations, including illicit arms trafficking and illegal sales of diamonds.

Chapter II
Meeting humanitarian commitments

88. Sadly, the turn of the millennium has not been accompanied by a reduction in the suffering caused by natural disasters and complex emergencies throughout the world. Protracted conflicts continue in Afghanistan, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and the Sudan, while crises escalated or erupted in Burundi, Indonesia, Liberia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, to mention several prominent examples. Vulnerable civilian populations continue to be deliberate targets of violence and to bear the brunt of the suffering caused by conflict. The deplorable attacks on humanitarian workers have also persisted. Heads and representatives of all 189 Member States paid tribute to those victims of violence at the Millennium Summit in New York in September 2000.

89. The scale and number of natural disasters continue to grow, escalating the demand for humanitarian assistance. During the past year, continuing drought in the Horn of Africa, Central America and Central and South Asia left a trail of devastation. Severe floods wrought destruction and large-scale displacement in southern Africa and Asia. North-east Asia experienced devastating cold. Massive earthquakes struck in El Salvador and India, causing enormous loss of life and damage to infrastructure. This growing need for humanitarian assistance requires greater efficiency in relief efforts carried out by the aid community, civil society and national Governments.

Coordinating humanitarian action and the protection of civilians

90. Coordination, both within the humanitarian community and between humanitarian initiatives and peace and security efforts, has continued to improve during the year. Special attention has been paid to improving coordination between humanitarian action and peace operations, in accordance with my note guiding the relationship between Representatives of the Secretary-General, resident coordinators and humanitarian coordinators.

91. In my second report to the Security Council on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (S/2001/331), I stated that the realities of distressed populations had not changed. Little progress had been made in implementing the 40 recommendations in my first report (S/1999/957) or in the two subsequent Security Council resolutions on the subject (resolutions 1265 (1999) and 1296 (2000)). I therefore urged the Security Council to shift the focus from reporting on this issue to implementing agreed recommendations.

92. Progress in protecting civilians threatened by armed conflict is measured in lives and livelihoods, and freedom from fear. Success depends on the willingness of Member States and international actors, including the Security Council and the General Assembly, to take appropriate and necessary action to protect civilians in armed conflict, particularly women, children and the elderly. The efforts to build the "culture of protection" that I called for in my second report should extend beyond the United Nations, and will require continued action and cooperation on the part of Governments, regional organizations, international and domestic non-governmental organizations, the media, the private sector and academia and civil society as a whole.

93. In the report and its recommendations it is argued that international action must complement, rather than serve as a substitute for, the responsibilities of States. The primary responsibility for protecting civilians in armed conflict rests with States, as recognized by the Member States when they pledged in the Millennium Declaration "to expand and strengthen the protection of civilians in complex emergencies, in conformity with international humanitarian law". Given the predominantly internal nature of today's armed conflicts, my report also highlighted the need to engage armed groups in protecting distressed populations.

94. Of the tens of millions of persons displaced worldwide, roughly half have been displaced by armed conflict. During the past year, the United Nations continued to strengthen humanitarian responses to crises of internal displacement. In July 2000, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee mandated a Senior Inter-Agency Network on Internal Displacement to carry out reviews of particular countries with internally displaced populations, in order to make recommendations to improve the situation in those countries and offer proposals for enhancing the international response to their basic needs. The

Network complements the continuing advocacy efforts of my Representative on Internally Displaced Persons, and uses the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, formulated under his direction, as its overarching framework. Indeed, the mandate of my Representative is also represented on Network review missions.

95. Representatives of the Network visited Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, Colombia, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Indonesia from October 2000 to August 2001. The review missions undertaken confirmed that there are serious gaps in the United Nations humanitarian response to the needs of internally displaced persons that have to be addressed, particularly with regard to protection. These gaps arise from the absence of clear agency responsibility in some sectors, and from what would appear to be insufficient efforts by some agencies in their designated areas. In many cases, the major constraint to an improved inter-agency response remains a lack of sustained funding. Work is under way to bridge the gaps that were identified. Over the long term, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs will be strengthened to support the responses of operational agencies to the needs of the internally displaced. This will be done through the establishment of a small, inter-agency, non-operational Internally Displaced Persons Unit that will advise the Emergency Relief Coordinator.

Delivering humanitarian services and dealing with underfunded emergencies

96. During the year under review, humanitarian assistance from the United Nations has reached a number of vulnerable populations, in Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Indonesia, Liberia, Mongolia, Mozambique, the occupied Palestinian territory, the Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the Sudan, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Great Lakes region in Africa, among others.

97. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is playing an increasingly important emergency role in over 35 countries. Its humanitarian action this past year included the immunization of more than 47 million children against polio on National Immunization Days, for which special ceasefires were negotiated in Afghanistan, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Sudan and Sri Lanka. More than 7 million children have benefited from UNICEF education support, and its response in East Timor, Kosovo and the United Republic of Tanzania highlighted the importance of emergency education as important means of bringing normalcy to a traumatized population.

98. Of the 17 countries most affected by HIV/AIDS, 13 are experiencing conflict. UNICEF has numerous programmes in these countries, including peer education and awareness-raising activities targeting young people through mass media and non-formal education. UNICEF programmes and partnerships for the protection of children and women in emergencies have expanded during the year. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sudan, progress was made towards demobilizing child soldiers while, in Sierra Leone, 1,000 of a total 1,700 demobilized children were reunited with their families. United Nations peacekeeping missions have also been used as both channels and targets for education and awareness-raising on HIV/AIDS.

99. The World Health Organization (WHO) contributes to overall humanitarian coordination by informing all partners on the determinants of survival and health in emergencies, and works to put coordinated public health actions in place for all affected populations, including the forcibly displaced. The priorities remain needs assessment, immunization, improved nutrition, providing pharmaceuticals, controlling communicable as well as non-communicable diseases, reproductive health and mental health. WHO also supports inter-agency action for HIV/AIDS control in emergencies, for the elderly in humanitarian emergencies and for the health of humanitarian workers.

100. The presence and field operational ability of WHO can ensure optimal impact in coordinated public health management, collective learning and health sector accountability. To this end, WHO provides country-specific technical guidance, situation reports and epidemiological surveillance data to all those partners that by their action in health or related sectors can contribute to the common goal of reducing avoidable mortality and suffering. In October 2000, WHO organized an International Consultation on the Mental Health of Refugees and Displaced Populations in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations that endorsed a declaration of cooperation between operational

agencies, Member States and academic and research institutions. WHO validated technical instruments for assessment and evaluation, and is organizing an international conference to examine how the response of local health-care systems to the needs of internally displaced persons can be improved.

101. As the food aid arm of the United Nations, the World Food Programme (WFP) continued to use food aid to save lives, alleviate hunger and enable poor people whose food supply is insecure to make investments to help themselves in the longer term. In response to emergencies in 2000, WFP delivered over 3.5 million tons of food, assisting 83 million people, including over 60 million people affected by natural disasters and complex emergencies. WFP continued to work with other United Nations entities to secure safe and unimpeded access to vulnerable populations and areas for the assessment, delivery, distribution and monitoring of food aid. WFP uses food aid to support livelihoods, reduce vulnerability to future food scarcities and support durable solutions, and strives to channel food through women in order to ensure that food aid meets the needs of families, particularly children. It seeks to provide 80 per cent of relief food directly to women, ensure full participation of women in decision-making groups, and facilitate equal access of women to resources, employment, markets and trade. WFP also works to understand the particular needs of food-insecure internally displaced people and help to ensure for them the same rights and freedoms as other people in their country, as well as addressing the food needs of refugees in a manner that builds self-reliance.

102. About 50 per cent of WFP food assistance in 2000 was targeted to vulnerable populations and groups affected by civil strife or conflicts in one of the many protracted emergencies plaguing Africa, Central Asia, the Balkans and Latin America. While in global terms WFP increased its food assistance to affected civilians by 3 per cent in 2000, it has experienced problems in some underfunded, "forgotten" emergencies, such as Angola, Somalia or the Great Lakes region. Timely contributions allowed the provision of humanitarian aid efficiently in a number of extremely complex and volatile situations. In some cases, however, resources were made available too late to avert or mitigate unfolding crises, or to avoid breaks in the food distribution chain, with the result that WFP had to resort to reducing the rations of affected populations.

103. The Global Information and Early Warning System of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), a comprehensive international warning system for threats to crop and food supply conditions, continued, in the wake of dramatic increases in food emergencies, to alert the international community to imminent crop failures and food crises. During the period 1998-2000, virtually all regions were seriously affected by natural or man-made disasters. Using field and satellite data, the system monitors crop and food supply and demand conditions in all countries, identifies those where food shortages may be imminent and maintains continuous assessments of possible emergency food needs.

104. In 2000, FAO provided emergency agriculture and livelihood recovery assistance to people affected by natural disasters and complex emergencies in 41 countries. FAO distributed seeds and tools to vulnerable groups, including internally displaced persons, ex-combatants and women. In the Horn of Africa and in Mongolia, FAO supplied animal feed and veterinary drugs to safeguard the health of livestock, upon which the local rural populations rely heavily. In countries, such as Afghanistan and Tajikistan, that have undergone protracted periods of conflict, FAO implemented longer-term rehabilitation projects, including the development of private veterinary services, the establishment of seed multiplication schemes and the restoration of farming machinery. To enhance the sustainability of these efforts, FAO placed special emphasis on the technical training and capacity-building elements of these projects.

105. FAO plays a central coordination role in the agricultural sector. A comprehensive relief and rehabilitation agricultural programme was implemented in Kosovo where, owing primarily to the presence of the FAO Emergency Coordination Unit, rehabilitation activities were able to expand in scope as immediate food relief was scaled down, successfully linking the relief and recovery stages of humanitarian assistance.

106. The United Nations Development Programme has continued to provide technical assistance through country offices, both to facilitate the reintegration of displaced populations and to rehabilitate crisis-affected communities through socio-economic initiatives. UNDP is introducing transitional recovery teams to

strengthen the capacity of its country offices and resident coordinator system to support early recovery efforts and to advance effective transitions from situations of conflict and disaster.

107. UNDP also seeks to reduce demand for illicit arms by confronting the root causes of violence. It has collected and destroyed tens of thousands of weapons and encouraged authorities in countries emerging from crisis to destroy tons of ammunition and explosives used in conflict. In the past year, it achieved some success in Albania, the Republic of the Congo and El Salvador. In Albania, some 14,000 weapons were collected and destroyed, and 10,000 weapons were collected and destroyed in the Republic of the Congo.

108. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East provides education, health, relief and social services, and implements income-generation programmes aimed at over 4 million refugees. Funding has not kept pace with the rapidly growing demand for services in this area, however. On the basis of donor pledges so far, the Agency faces an estimated deficit of $67 million against a budget of $311 million approved by the General Assembly. The deficit seriously jeopardizes the quality and extent of the Agency's services.

109. During the past year the "oil-for-food" programme, established by the Security Council in 1996, and administered by the Office of the Iraq Programme, has continued to assist the Iraqi people in meeting their basic needs in the areas of food and nutrition, health, water and sanitation, agriculture and shelter. Since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1330 (2000) on 5 December 2000, 72 per cent of Iraqi oil revenue is now available for the humanitarian programme, instead of the 66 per cent available during earlier phases. The additional funds will address the needs of the most vulnerable groups of the population. The Government of Iraq's delays in contracting humanitarian supplies and equipment are of great concern, as are the delays in submitting applications by contractors, and the decision to place a large number of contracts on hold by the Security Council sanctions committee.

110. The United Nations system, under the coordination of the United Nations Mine Action Service, has continued to address the threat of landmines in over 20 countries. Affected land is surveyed, marked, mapped and cleared, while awareness of the risks is raised within the communities concerned. Assistance to victims has focused on rehabilitation and reintegration. The United Nations has continued to mobilize resources to support these activities, and more than 30 countries now seek funding assistance through various United Nations mechanisms. It is estimated that, in 2000, international donors provided over $200 million for mine action in addition to the resources committed by mine-affected States themselves. At the international level, considerable advancements have been made, including the development and dissemination of the International Mine Action Standards, the further deployment of the Information Management System for Mine Action, and work on the socio-economic impact of landmine contamination. While significant progress has been achieved in reducing the threat posed by landmines in several countries, the most severely affected States will require consistent levels of international support for a number of years to come.

111. Underfunding, access restrictions and staff security issues have seriously constrained the emergency response capacity of agencies during the year. Underfunding is an ongoing and critical limitation for humanitarian action in a number of countries. In the absence of immediate and realistic funding, emergency planning, preparedness and stockpiling can do little to accelerate the humanitarian response to a crisis.

112. The consolidated appeals process brings the United Nations humanitarian community together to develop common strategies for complex emergencies in the most acute crises, often characterized by political or economic failure in the State concerned. For 2001, consolidated appeals were issued for humanitarian crises in Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Maluku in Indonesia, the northern Caucasus in the Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Somalia, south-eastern Europe, the Sudan, Tajikistan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and West Africa.

113. The 2001 consolidated appeals sought $2.8 billion to reach an estimated 44 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in countries affected by conflict. As at June 2001, less than a third of the requirements listed in the consolidated appeals had been met, even lower in percentage terms than pledges made to the 2000 consolidated appeals at the same time last year.

The challenge of protecting and assisting refugees

114. The year 2000 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). At this important milestone, UNHCR faces serious challenges. They include ensuring the availability and quality of asylum; revitalizing the refugee protection system; providing effective assistance to refugees; promoting durable solutions for refugees; and fostering partnerships in support of the international protection system and in pursuit of durable solutions.

115. The global population of concern to UNHCR decreased from 22.3 million at the start of 2000 to 21.1 million at the start of 2001. This population includes refugees, asylum seekers, returning refugees in the early stages of their reintegration, and internally displaced persons. Ongoing or renewed conflicts, coupled with stagnating peace processes, generated continuing outflows of refugees. Repeated violations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement displaced an estimated 1.8 million people internally, and led over 100,000 people to flee, mostly to the Republic of the Congo, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. Despite the signing in August 2000 of the Arusha Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation, continued violence prompted 80,000 people to leave Burundi for the United Republic of Tanzania. In the first seven months of 2001, the arrival of some 880,000 Afghans in Pakistan made Pakistan host to the largest refugee population in the world, estimated at some 2 million people.

116. In September 2000, we witnessed the brutal killings of three UNHCR staff members in West Timor and one staff member in Guinea. To address the inextricably linked issues of refugee and staff security, UNHCR undertook a comprehensive review of its emergency preparedness and response structures, as well as the management of its security services, increasing its coordination with the office of the United Nations Security Coordinator and other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.

117. Access to safety and continued protection in host countries remain vital for the world's refugees. The quality of asylum has, however, deteriorated in a number of countries, including in several regions with traditionally generous asylum policies. This is a result of the economic and social difficulties in hosting large refugee populations, national security considerations and concerns about the use of asylum procedures by illegal immigrants and the trafficking and smuggling of persons.

118. In December 2000, after consultations with key partners, in particular the International Committee of the Red Cross, UNHCR produced policy guidelines on the question of combatants and former combatants with particular reference to the situations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Namibia and Zambia.

119. UNHCR has continued to monitor implementation of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, notably through involvement in national procedures for the determination of refugee status. When a State is not a party to international law regarding refugees, or has not established the relevant procedures, UNHCR carries out refugee status determinations under its mandate. Fifty years after the establishment of UNHCR, a major challenge still lies in persuading more States to accede to and comply with the Convention and Protocol. At the end of 2000, 140 States, including most recently Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago, had acceded to the instruments.

120. UNHCR has played a leading role in facilitating and coordinating voluntary repatriation, which includes providing assistance to returnees during reintegration and rehabilitation. In total, over 790,000 persons returned to their countries during 2000, including 290,000 returning to Afghanistan mostly from the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, and 125,000 to Kosovo, from other parts of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

121. Apart from being an important protection tool, resettlement has increasingly become a mechanism for sharing responsibility and seeking durable solutions. The traditional resettlement countries continue each year to provide resettlement opportunities to some 30,000 refugees referred by UNHCR, usually from the Middle East and increasingly from Africa. In a welcome development over recent years, Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Iceland, Ireland and Spain have joined the list of countries willing to provide resettlement opportunities.

122. Underfunding has also seriously affected UNHCR operations and, in some cases, led to a scaling-down of assistance. In Angola, for example, lack of funding curtailed the procurement of building materials for the

completion of houses in camps ahead of the rainy season. In Afghanistan, unpredictable and insufficient funding undermined the ability of UNHCR to cope with repatriation rates that more than doubled in the past year, and to alleviate the suffering of some 500,000 internally displaced persons.

Natural disaster response: engaging developing countries and building capacities

123. Although natural disasters can occur anywhere, a number of factors such as poverty, food insecurity, wars, social strife, lack of community planning and environmental degradation make developing countries more vulnerable to their devastating impact. The United Nations has been working closely with Governments, at national and regional levels, to strengthen their preventive and response capacities in order to minimize the risks and impact of disasters.

124. In cooperation with the Governments of affected countries, the United Nations intensified its efforts to draw lessons from previous relief operations and to strengthen preventive strategies, including early warning mechanisms, at national and regional levels. In the Americas and the Caribbean regions, thanks to 25 years of efforts spearheaded by the Pan American Health Organization/WHO, most countries have made significant progress in the disaster field. They have developed country hazard maps, and have improved and expanded seismic monitoring networks and early warning systems. World Food Programme assistance to victims of natural disasters has increased steadily in recent years. Globally, one third of WFP food aid in 2000 was targeted to these vulnerable populations, marking a 20 per cent increase over the preceding year. UNDP cooperated with developing countries to mainstream disaster management within broader development strategies, and integrate disaster response preparedness initiatives into a framework of support for disaster reduction.

125. The Disaster Management Training Programme, managed by UNDP in collaboration with 26 partner United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, and international organizations, aims to provide training to capacity-building programmes. Country-level training activities under the Programme have been integrated into the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy in the southern Africa region. Other training activities have focused on countries of the Mekong River Commission, and have provided capacity-building support for individual countries at vital stages of long-term disaster management strategy in Central America.

126. The United Nations disaster assessment and coordination system, managed by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, has been building expertise in disaster-prone regions to coordinate international assistance in major disasters. The Military and Civil Defence Unit of the Office is conducting training to improve relationships and coordination between humanitarian actors and the military and civil defence resources that are employed in emergency response. It also coordinates international exercises when military and civil defence assets are used.

127. In partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is focusing on upgrading the humanitarian community's capacity to respond rapidly to the environmental consequences of natural disasters. Specifically, it has developed a global network of officially designated national focal points to serve as the conduit for accessing information and assistance. This continuously expanding global network currently includes representatives of more than 100 countries in all major regions.

128. Events in 2001 once again confirmed the need to plan effective disaster reduction measures in order to strike a better balance between, on the one hand, funds spent on intervention and relief and, on the other, resources which could be devoted to enhance prevention capacities. The first year of operation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction has demonstrated that many countries and a large number of United Nations agencies and organizations, non-governmental organizations, regional entities and representatives of civil society are willing to engage in broad efforts to promote a global culture of prevention. Building and strengthening effective early warning systems, and providing adequate education and training, as well as appropriate technology, are a few major areas where decisive action is required.

Chapter III
Cooperating for development

Overview: extreme poverty

129. At the Millennium Summit, the international community resolved to wage war on poverty by launching a sustained campaign to make the right to development a reality for everyone. The effort to render globalization inclusive and equitable will pose a daunting challenge in the years ahead. If the international community is to meet its goals of development and poverty eradication, economic growth in developing economies must accelerate. At the same time, disparities in prevailing poverty rates both within and between countries will require targeted attention. We will need to work together, with adequate financial resources, to advance appropriate economic, social and financial policies and to bolster supporting institutions at the national and international levels.

Cooperating effectively to eradicate poverty

130. Through its development cooperation efforts, the United Nations continues to dedicate substantial resources to supporting Governments in the implementation of their development objectives and priorities, including those articulated in the Millennium Declaration. The United Nations Strategy for Halving Extreme Poverty, endorsed by the Administrative Committee on Coordination in October 2000, recognizes the multidimensional nature of poverty. It incorporates a rights-based approach embodying principles of equity, non-discrimination (among ethnic, gender and geographical groups), accountability and participation into development and poverty reduction efforts. United Nations entities have cooperated in the formulation of national poverty reduction strategies in 60 countries and the writing of comprehensive poverty reduction strategy papers in others. The United Nations has carried out assessments of the social and economic effects of liberalization and globalization in 17 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Common country assessments and the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, drafted in 81 countries and completed in 34, are the principal vehicles by means of which the United Nations is contributing to achieving the millennium development goals. To date, 71 countries have aligned their activities to those goals.

131. The United Nations Development Group, under the chairmanship of UNDP, continues to manage development activities. Since my last report, I am pleased to announce that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization have joined the United Nations Development Group.

132. Early in 2001, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) released its *Rural Poverty Report 2001: The Challenges of Ending Rural Poverty*, a comprehensive review of the causes and dynamics of rural poverty and effective approaches to poverty reduction. The report concludes that the poor themselves are the most potent agents of change. Evidence shows that poverty decreases faster when the poor participate actively in poverty reduction. Access to assets such as land, water, markets, information and technology enables the poor to take charge of their lives and allows them to escape poverty permanently. In 2000, IFAD approved 27 new rural development projects expected to benefit an estimated 13.6 million people. Those projects are implemented in collaboration with United Nations entities, bilateral and multilateral donors, non-governmental organizations and partners in the private sector. Joint operations based on complementary expertise and shared objectives have proved invaluable in achieving project goals and thus contributing to poverty eradication.

133. The United Nations has also reached out in other areas to help people lift themselves out of poverty. Through the use of vulnerability assessment and mapping tools, the World Food Programme has identified the food-insecure and marginalized, targeted its food aid and sought to ensure that each of its interventions involves investment in physical or human assets of lasting value. Meanwhile, UNDP has increased the availability of sustainable micro-finance services. Together with the United Nations Capital Development Fund, it operates the MicroStart programme. As at 31 March 2001, MicroStart had begun operations in 20 countries and 62 projects in 14 countries had received grants. Collectively, the 62 projects have increased the number of active clients served from a baseline of 67,026 to 192,881. The

percentage of women clients served by the projects has increased from 57 per cent to 84 per cent.

134. No effort to reduce poverty can succeed without first ensuring the well-being of children and the enjoyment of their rights. Education, and especially education of girls, will contribute significantly to poverty reduction and achievement of the millennium development goals. At my request, UNICEF is leading an inter-agency task force to develop and implement the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative and United Nations staff in 50 countries are involved in collaborative activities related to girls' education. In 2000, WFP fed more than 12 million schoolchildren in 54 countries. This year, it will aim to increase funding for food aid, while also creating alliances to combine food with sanitation, health and education assistance.

135. Ensuring gender equality and women's empowerment are equally critical to the reduction of poverty. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has worked closely with partner agencies, the World Bank, civil society and private sector partners to reduce maternal mortality by three quarters between 1990 and 2015 through the Safe Motherhood Initiative. In 2000, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) focused on strengthening women's economic capacity, rights and bargaining power; promoting legal and regulatory changes that safeguard women's equal ownership and access to economic assets; enhancing Governments' capacities to manage economic transitions without marginalizing poor women; and supporting gender-responsive government budgets and macroeconomic policy frameworks.

136. At the intergovernmental level, the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000, provided a broad mandate for a global campaign to eradicate poverty, with emphasis on the need for consolidation of the many ongoing initiatives. The Administrative Committee on Coordination has proposed that the Assembly discuss a framework for a global campaign to eradicate poverty. The campaign, a common advocacy effort, would underline the United Nations system-wide commitment to reducing poverty through concerted action in social, educational, nutritional, health and cultural dimensions, as well as in the promotion of gender equality and empowerment.

137. The twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in New York from 6 to 8 June 2001, provided a further vehicle for poverty reduction. The concluding Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium emphasizes that improvements in shelter and related urban infrastructure and services, as well as the sustainable development of human settlements, will contribute to eliminating poverty. The implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the pursuit of sustainable development are an integral part of the overall fight for the eradication of poverty. As poverty is a main obstacle in implementing the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration stresses the need to address, in an integrated manner, poverty, homelessness, unemployment, lack of basic services, exclusion of women and of children and marginalized groups. This will help achieve better, more liveable and inclusive human settlements. The Declaration also highlights the need to empower the poor and vulnerable by promoting greater security of tenure, including awareness of legal rights, and by promoting the upgrading of slums and regularization of squatter settlements, within the legal framework of each country. In particular, it re-emphasizes the aim of the Cities without Slums initiative to make a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.

Mobilizing resources for development and poverty eradication

138. World leaders at the Millennium Summit resolved to make every effort to ensure the success of a unique intergovernmental process called financing for development. All the major international actors that deal with the interrelated issues of finance, trade and development have decided to search collectively for solutions to common problems. The preparatory meetings for the International Conference on Financing for Development, which is to be held at Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, include regional meetings organized by the five regional commissions in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and regional development banks. The Coordinating Secretariat for Financing for Development, established in 2000, is located in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, and includes staff seconded from the World Bank, UNCTAD and UNDP. Staff from the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization have also worked actively with the

coordinating secretariat. Last January I issued a report that offered a comprehensive set of 87 recommendations on all key aspects of financing for development. To further assist the preparatory process, I requested a High-level Panel on Financing for Development, chaired by the former President of Mexico, Ernesto Zedillo, to produce a report that will help Governments refine their proposals for the Monterrey Conference.

139. The aim of the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, held on 1 May 2001, was to promote coherence and cooperation in international development and, in particular, in poverty reduction. The meeting stressed the crucial need to ensure sustained economic growth, but noted that economic growth would not advance sustainable development in the absence of social justice. The meeting recognized that halving the number of people living in poverty by 2015 would require lasting debt relief to the poorest countries and stressed that a stable and well-managed international financial system was vital in the context of increasing globalization. Of equal importance was the recognition that protectionism in trade measures, in particular for the agricultural sector of developed countries, had prevented developing countries from benefiting fully from trade. Increased market access for developing countries was fundamental to ensuring poverty reduction. Participants welcomed efforts to open the new round of trade talks in 2001. These issues will also be discussed at the International Conference on Financing for Development.

Least developed countries: giving the poorest nations a chance

140. Of the 49 countries classified as least developed, 34 are in Africa, 13 are located in the region of Asia and the Pacific, one is in Western Asia and one is in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean. Those countries face formidable obstacles to their development, which include external debt problems, declining external resource flows, declining terms of trade, barriers to market access for their products, high population growth, inadequate social development, lack of infrastructure and environmental constraints, including water shortages.

141. The progress of the least developed countries towards international targets for human and social development has been disappointingly slow. Special measures are therefore needed to lend momentum to their development efforts. The *World Economic and Social Survey 2000*, prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, reviewed a number of issues that least developed countries will need to address in order to achieve rapid and sustained growth that improves living standards. Focusing on domestic conditions, the *Survey* stressed the pivotal role of agriculture, the importance of human capital development, the need to improve technological capabilities and the prime role of institutions and institutional change in the development process.

142. Against this backdrop, I conducted the preparatory process for, and convened, the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001. Preparing African countries for the Conference was of particular importance. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) organized a high-level consultative meeting in November 2000. The meeting reviewed progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and considered policies to ensure the progressive, sustainable integration of least developed countries into the global economy. The Conference of African Ministers of Finance considered the expert recommendations and adopted a common declaration calling for an increase in external resource flows, including official development assistance and foreign direct investment; expansion of current debt relief initiatives; wider preferential market access for products originating in least developed countries; and technical assistance to strengthen capacity to address supply-side constraints, including those relating to infrastructure and institutions.

143. The Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries adopted a political declaration, the Brussels Declaration, and the Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010. The Brussels Declaration reaffirms the collective responsibility of the international community to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity and to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people, as set out in the Millennium Declaration.

144. The Programme of Action provides specific goals and targets along with action-oriented commitments in

seven critically important areas: fostering a people-centred policy framework; good governance at the national and international levels; building human and institutional capacities; building productive capacities to make globalization work for least developed countries; enhancing the role of trade in development; reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment; and mobilizing financial resources.

145. In both the Political Declaration and the Programme of Action, development partners agreed to increase market access for least developed countries; to provide adequate financial resources for the full implementation of the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative; and to contribute to the integrated framework for trade-related technical assistance. UNCTAD, the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, the World Bank Group's Foreign Investment Advisory Service and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization also launched a technical assistance programme on foreign direct investment in a pilot group of countries. Drawing on the experience of United Nations field teams, UNCTAD will lead the implementation of the Programme of Action.

Battling HIV/AIDS

146. The HIV/AIDS pandemic is a catastrophe of global proportions. It is destroying the social fabric in the most affected countries, reversing years of declining death rates and causing dramatic rises in mortality among young adults. By late 2000, over 36 million adults and children were living with HIV/AIDS, while nearly 22 million had died of the virus. According to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) *Epidemic Update* of December 2000, 5.3 million new infections occurred last year and the number of children orphaned by AIDS had reached nearly 15 million.

147. Africa is the continent most profoundly affected by the spread of AIDS. In sub-Saharan Africa, where 25.3 million people are living with HIV/AIDS, the epidemic is now the leading cause of death. HIV prevalence rates among people aged 15 to 49 have reached or exceeded 10 per cent in 16 sub-Saharan countries. The virus is also spreading with alarming speed in other parts of the world. A rapid increase in the number of HIV infections in Eastern Europe and South and East Asia is also cause for serious concern.

148. Participants in the Millennium Summit resolved to halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015; to provide special assistance to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS; and to help Africa build its capacity to tackle the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other infectious diseases. The United Nations has pursued numerous initiatives to assist Governments in defeating the epidemic. The depth of the health crisis in sub-Saharan Africa, in particular, has generated concerted action in numerous forums. African Governments, partners of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations and private sector partners intensified efforts to mobilize additional resources under the auspices of the Framework for Action of the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa.

149. The Economic Commission for Africa organized the African Development Forum in December 2000 around the theme "AIDS: the greatest leadership challenge". The Forum called for leadership and action by all stakeholders to fight HIV/AIDS in Africa in the African Consensus and Plan of Action: Leadership to Overcome HIV/AIDS. The Plan of Action served as an important input for the Special Summit on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) held at Abuja in April 2001, where African leaders committed themselves to devoting at least 15 per cent of their annual budgets to improving health care systems.

150. In June 2001, the General Assembly held its twenty-sixth special session, on HIV/AIDS, to review and address the problem of HIV/AIDS in all its aspects and to secure a global commitment to enhancing coordination and intensification of national, regional and international efforts to combat it in a comprehensive manner. The special session constituted a culminating point in the efforts of the United Nations to combat HIV/AIDS. In that framework and with the assistance of UNAIDS and its co-sponsors, I called for a major new global campaign in the fight against HIV/AIDS at the OAU Special Summit on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases. The Plan of Action adopted at the Summit is intended to translate into concrete initiatives the commitments made by African leaders to intensify efforts to mobilize resources for prevention, care and treatment of the diseases and to develop strategies to mitigate the impact of the epidemic on Africa's socio-economic

development. I also proposed the establishment of a Global AIDS and Health Fund in order to mobilize the $7 to $10 billion necessary to appropriately address the AIDS epidemic.

151. In order to strengthen coordination within the United Nations system, I also established a High-level Inter-Agency Task Force on HIV/AIDS, chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General and composed of all relevant funds, programmes and agencies. System-wide efforts to address the various aspects of the HIV/AIDS crisis continue.

Social development

152. Social objectives are integral to the struggle against poverty. The United Nations is continuing, through its own operational activities and through partnerships and networks, to promote improved access to basic social services and healthcare, to advance gender equality, to safeguard respect for human rights, to facilitate good governance, to expand access to information and communication technologies, to combat the scourge of illegal drugs and to support data collection and analyses on a wide range of policy issues.

Basic social services

153. The Task Force on Basic Social Services for All of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, chaired by UNFPA, has strengthened the United Nations system's capacity to deliver coordinated assistance, including policies, plans and programmes at the national and regional levels. In October 2000, the Task Force completed new or revised Guidelines for the United Nations Resident Coordinator System on basic education, maternal mortality, primary health care and HIV/AIDS.

Health

154. Global immunization coverage (the major childhood diseases covered are measles, poliomyelitis, pertussis, diphtheria, tetanus and tuberculosis) stands at 74 per cent, although many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as those in conflict, report coverage rates far below 50 per cent. The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization is playing a critical role in improving coverage. In 2000, only 2,800 cases of polio were confirmed, as compared with 7,100 cases in 1999. National immunization days, typically organized in partnership with UNICEF, WHO, Rotary International and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, remain vital to improved coverage. In 2000, a record 550 million children under five years of age were immunized during intensified national immunization days in 82 countries. For example, in India, 152 million children were vaccinated in three days, and across West and Central Africa 76 million children were immunized in 17 countries. Within Africa, the Roll Back Malaria initiative, led by WHO, UNDP, the World Bank and UNICEF, emphasizes partnerships with all stakeholders, including Governments of countries where the disease is endemic, donor Governments, the private sector and civil society, in malaria prevention and control.

Gender and population

155. The new biennial report of UNIFEM, *Progress of the World's Women 2000*, offers revealing insights into advances and challenges in women's economic, social and political status and rights. *Progress 2000* documents the advances many countries have made on behalf of women and also examines remaining social, economic and political gaps. The report found that, during the last decade, only eight countries had successfully met global agreements to achieve both gender equality in secondary education enrolment and at least a 30 per cent share for women of seats in parliament. It strongly recommends the adoption of a globally agreed goal specific to women's paid employment, such as raising women's share of administrative and managerial positions.

156. Gender inequality has direct consequences for women's health, education and social and economic participation. At its twenty-first special session, in 1999, at which it reviewed the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the General Assembly reconfirmed gender equality and women's empowerment as central goals of the Programme of Action and recommended a number of key initiatives such as zero tolerance for all forms of violence, including rape, incest, sexual violence and sex trafficking, against women and children. This entails developing an integrated approach that addresses the need for widespread social, cultural and economic change, in addition to legal reforms, and the close monitoring of the gender-differentiated impact of the

globalization of the economy and the privatization of basic social services, in particular reproductive health.

157. In 2000, the UNIFEM Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women continued to serve as the basis for learning about gender-based violence and support for initiatives aimed at ending such violence. UNIFEM funded 17 new Trust Fund projects addressing a variety of issues, including addressing "honour killings" in Jordan, building local capacity to protect women from trafficking and domestic violence in the Republic of Moldova, training human rights lawyers on domestic violence issues in Peru and educating the public and sensitizing law enforcement agents about domestic violence laws in the United Republic of Tanzania.

158. In March 2000, the Commission on Human Rights adopted a resolution on women's equal ownership of, access to and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing. Introduced by the Committee on Housing Rights and Evictions, a recipient of UNIFEM funding, the resolution constitutes a milestone in recognizing the gender dimensions of economic, social and cultural rights, drawing connections between women's property ownership, housing and inheritance rights.

159. The United Nations Development Programme worked in more than 100 countries to address issues of gender equality and empowerment. It facilitated dialogue between Governments and civil society stakeholders on gender issues, drew up action plans addressing gender equality, and established networks of gender focal points in Government and within the wider community of national stakeholders. It also helped to augment national capacities for data collection and analysis, mainly to facilitate national reporting on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Youth employment

160. Social integration is a fundamental dynamic of social development. It continues to evolve under the influence of demographic change, most noticeably in changing family structures and the ageing of populations. In my report to the Millennium Assembly, I highlighted the urgency of finding decent work for the more than 70 million young women and men actively but unsuccessfully seeking employment, as well as for the many others underemployed in the informal economy. The Member States, in the Millennium Declaration, accepted the challenge of youth employment when they resolved to "develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work".

161. As a first step in meeting that challenge, I have, together with the heads of the World Bank and the International Labour Organization, convened a high-level network — drawing on the experience and creativity of private industry and civil society — on youth unemployment and economic policy. The network will formulate a set of recommendations on youth employment directed at world leaders, disseminate information on good practices, and identify a series of collaborative youth employment initiatives for implementation with partners.

162. "Empowering Youth for Action" was the theme of the fourth session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations, held at Dakar in August 2001. Pursuant to the General Assembly's decision to proclaim 12 August International Youth Day, Member States and youth organizations worldwide recognized the day as an opportunity to strengthen youth involvement in development activities.

Ageing

163. Ageing remains one of the most complex social development issues confronting countries today. The *World Ageing Situation 2001* questions conventional wisdom that ageing is a problem and offers fresh approaches to the issue. The Second World Assembly on Ageing, to be held at Madrid in April 2002, will offer an opportunity to adopt a revised version of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, originally adopted in 1982, focusing on humanitarian and developmental aspects of ageing, aligned with modern, socio-cultural, economic and demographic realities.

People with disabilities

164. Promoting equal opportunities for persons with disabilities and ensuring respect for their rights and full participation in all spheres of social life also remains a priority. In 2001, the Secretariat supported an initiative to develop an effective policy framework and programme interventions for children and young adults

with disabilities in Latin America in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on children, to be held from 19 to 21 September 2001. Through the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability, it has also sponsored activities of the African Decade of Disabled People (2000-2009), an innovative partnership between Governments and the non-governmental community to bring disability to the forefront of Africa's development agenda.

The promotion of human rights and good governance

165. Rights-based programming underpins much of the operational activity undertaken by the United Nations. Last year, UNDP supported the development of national human rights action plans, invested in civic education and awareness-raising campaigns, and established and strengthened ombudsman offices and national human rights institutions. In several countries, UNDP also carried out a range of activities to bolster democratic governance. For example, support was made available to 38 parliaments, 34 justice systems and 21 electoral systems in 2000. A $6 million global initiative funded by the Government of Belgium was launched to strengthen parliaments, while a global network of 350 civil society organizations was established to promote judicial reform. Public sector management programmes in 78 countries resulted in civil service reform, national action to tackle corruption and promote transparency, and the adoption by some Governments of results-based management to advance public sector efficiency and accountability. Decentralization programmes involving capacity-building, resource mobilization, service delivery and community empowerment were ongoing in 37 countries.

Reduction of the demand for drugs

166. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) continues to lead the United Nations system in supporting government efforts to combat the scourge of illegal drug abuse. To that end, the Programme has organized the Global Youth Network against Drug Abuse and assisted Governments and non-governmental organizations in involving young people in policy-making and programme activities. The UNDCP Global Assessment Programme on Drug Abuse has assisted countries in Africa and Asia to collect and analyse data, while the joint UNDCP/WHO Global Initiative on Primary Prevention of Substance Abuse has supported community-level prevention in Belarus, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Thailand, the United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zambia.

Access to information and communication technologies

167. Information and communication technology is an important instrument for reaping the potential benefits of globalization. In the past year, the United Nations forged important partnerships to bridge the "digital divide" and harness the power of technology to promote development. I will launch, on 14 September 2001, the United Nations Information and Communication Technologies Task Force, which resulted from the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council in July 2000 (resolution 2000/29). The Task Force, created for an initial period of three years, consists of representatives of 18 countries, 8 private corporations, 6 multilateral organizations (International Telecommunication Union, United Nations, UNDP, UNESCO, World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Bank) and 4 non-governmental organizations. The principal mission of the Task Force is to harness the power of information and communication technologies for advancing the millennium development goals, in particular the eradication of poverty. It should achieve this by acting as an effective and useful facilitator, catalyst and accelerator, a global forum and a means to raise awareness and mobilize resources.

168. UNDP has been actively involved in a number of public and private multisectoral initiatives to focus attention on the issues, undertake advocacy and provide mechanisms for follow-up at the country level. It has also, with the World Bank, provided for the secretariat of the Digital Opportunity Task Force, or DOT Force, which was set up in the wake of the meeting of the Group of Eight summit, held at Okinawa in July 2000. The final report of the DOT Force, *Digital Opportunities for All: Meeting the Challenge*, with a nine-point action plan, was fully endorsed by the G-8 leaders in their final communiqué at Genoa in July 2001. UNDP has also endeavoured to strengthen the voice of developing countries by means of a multisectoral task force which is a partnership between G-8 countries, developing countries, the private sector and non-governmental organizations. To

support the work of the DOT Force, UNDP, in collaboration with the Markle Foundation and Accenture, also completed the first phase of the Digital Opportunity Initiative in July 2001, which makes the case for information and communication technology for development and will continue to assist developing countries in preparing national e-strategies. As also announced at Okinawa, and completed in July 2001, the United Nations Volunteers, UNDP, the United States Peace Corps and Cisco Systems deployed a programme to provide Internet training in 24 least developed countries worldwide. UNDP will work with other United Nations entities, Governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector in implementing the DOT Force Plan of Action.

Data collection and analysis for advocacy and policy

169. The United Nations produces a wealth of reports and analyses that enable Governments to track the progress made in different aspects of social development. That data collection provides an excellent basis for advocacy and policy development. In the area of population, for example, UNFPA and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs have collaborated to enhance national capacities for statistical collection and analysis, especially in relation to conducting population censuses and surveys. This is fundamental to the construction of population-based indicators with a view to monitoring progress towards the goals set by global conferences.

170. With support from UNDP, more than 56 national human development reports are in various stages of preparation. Long-term studies were completed in Cameroon, Namibia and Sierra Leone, and another 30 such exercises are under way elsewhere. Courses on human development were introduced in 11 universities across Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. Advocacy has begun to produce new policies and programmes across all regions. Examples of recent progress include the participation of members of the think tank on human development in the formulation of the new National Charter in Bahrain; the Government of Brazil's adoption of the Human Development Index as a prerequisite to all federal resource allocation for social development; the use of the municipal Human Development Index in Bulgaria to focus public assistance; and the amendment of the rules and regulations of the Social Fund for Development in Egypt to incorporate best practices on poverty reduction.

Sustainable development

171. Nearly a decade has passed since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development was convened in 1992. Since then, Governments and civil society groups have brought tremendous energy to the implementation of Agenda 21 and other outcomes of the Conference. Governments in both developed and developing countries have taken legislative and regulatory action to strengthen national policy frameworks for sustainable development. Around the world, numerous communities have implemented local versions of Agenda 21 and a growing number of companies have adopted sustainable development as an essential element of corporate stewardship.

172. Within the United Nations system, diverse initiatives in support of Member States' efforts to pursue country-specific sustainable development plans have been launched through project financing, policy advice and technical assistance aimed at strengthening human, institutional, technical and productive capacities of developing countries.

173. Notwithstanding those efforts, the challenge of achieving sustainability remains. The *World Resources Report 2000-01: People and Ecosystems, the Fraying Web of Life*, produced in September 2000 by the World Resources Institute, UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank, concluded that increased resource demands continued to cause global ecosystems to deteriorate, with potentially devastating results for human development and the welfare of all species. The report was based largely on information collected in the preparatory phase of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment from 1998-2000, a major international collaborative effort to map the health of our planet, generate new information, develop methodological tools, inform public policies and increase public awareness. It led to the launching of a Poverty-Environment Initiative designed to identify practical policy measures that advance the twin goals of poverty reduction and environmental regeneration. The World Energy Assessment, co-sponsored by UNDP, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the World Energy Council, was also launched in the period under review.

174. An important landmark will be the convening, at the instigation of the General Assembly, of the World Summit on Sustainable Development at Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002. The Summit is intended to reinvigorate global commitment to sustainable development by identifying accomplishments and constraints as well as new challenges and opportunities in the implementation of Agenda 21 and other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The regional commissions and UNEP have been organizing regional meetings with this in mind.

175. In order to successfully address new and emerging challenges in promoting sustainable development, the international community needs strong, focused and effective institutional arrangements that ensure coherent and integrated international environmental policy. To that end, and in line with the Malmö Ministerial Declaration, adopted by the First Global Ministerial Environment Forum, held at Malmö, Sweden, in May 2000, and the decisions of the Governing Council of UNEP, a review of international environmental governance, involving Governments, financial institutions, civil society and experts, is under way. It will take full account of the environmental components of the Millennium Declaration and provide substantive inputs to the preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

176. International cooperation for sustainable development at the intergovernmental level continues under the auspices of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which held its ninth session in April 2001. The Commission placed its policy review in a broad development context and highlighted the linkages between atmospheric issues and other problems, including unsustainable consumption and production patterns, rapid urbanization and the interdependence of energy, transport and the atmosphere. In its deliberations on energy, the Commission emphasized that meeting the energy challenge would require financial resources, technology transfer and commitment to innovative ways of applying energy-efficient, environmentally sound and cost-effective technologies to all sectors of the economy.

177. The first Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents was held in November 2000. Negotiations were initiated for a new legally binding instrument on pollutant release and transfer registers under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the "Aarhus Convention") for possible adoption at the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment for Europe, to be held at Kiev in 2003. The Aarhus Convention, negotiated under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Europe, was adopted in June 1998 and enters into force in October 2001.

178. During the year under review, the Commission on Sustainable Development successfully concluded the work of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests. By its resolution 2000/35, the Economic and Social Council decided to establish the United Nations Forum on Forests to promote the implementation of internationally agreed actions on forests at the national, regional and global levels. In June 2001, the Forum held its first substantive session to develop a plan of action and to initiate the Forum's work by means of a collaborative partnership on forests.

179. Implementation of multilateral environmental agreements is essential in the protection of our common environment. The adoption and signing at Stockholm in May 2001 of the Convention for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants, with a view to minimizing and eliminating some of the most toxic chemicals, was an important milestone. Environmental experts have hailed the Convention, which sets out control measures covering the production, trade, disposal and use of such pollutants, as an historic step towards making the planet safer.

180. In the field of climate change, summaries of the third assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change were released early in 2001. The Panel concluded that there was strong evidence that most of the warming over the past 50 years was attributable to human activities and projected a global average temperature rise of 1.4° to 5.8°C over the next 100 years. To alleviate the problem, efforts by the United Nations system to promote renewable energy technologies and facilitate the required reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases continue, as do attempts to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol by 2002.

181. Efforts towards sustainable development also continue at the regional level. The Economic and

Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific organized a Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development at Kitakyushu, Japan, in September 2000. The Conference adopted a Ministerial Declaration and a Regional Action Programme 2001-2005, which commit regional Governments to pursuing common priorities to promote sustainable development. The Conference also launched the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment, the first attempt at twinning cities of developing countries with the City of Kitakyushu to improve urban environmental management.

182. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean is working with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNEP in assisting countries in the region to prepare for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Participants in the preparatory meetings reported a high level of adherence to international environmental agreements, both those approved at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 and those negotiated subsequently.

183. Most countries of the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) have formulated national environmental strategies and action plans aimed at integrating environmental concerns into economic development plans and setting priorities to achieve sustainable development. ESCWA is also emphasizing assessment and identification of options to facilitate sustainable approaches to energy resource management and the development of mechanisms to support regional and subregional cooperation. By October 2000, 11 ESCWA member States had agreed to join the mechanism and had nominated concerned national authorities to represent them as national focal points. The region is facing a critical situation with respect to water resources. It must work to increase the efficiency of water use and water management, including water recycling and desalination; to induce more regional cooperation, especially in the management of shared water resources; and to utilize its abundant energy resources in increasing the availability of water resources and protecting our common environment.

Africa

184. In the Millennium Declaration, Member States devoted special attention to Africa and called on the United Nations system to play a catalytic role in mobilizing resources in the cause of African development.

185. The recommendations contained in my report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871-S/1998/318) remain an important point of departure. The implementation of those recommendations has been entrusted to the General Assembly Ad Hoc Working Group, whose progress report of November 2000 contained a concise overview of the progress in and constraints to their implementation. The Working Group met again in May and June 2001 to focus on conflict prevention, post-conflict peace-building and education.

186. At the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, in July 2001, the New African Initiative adopted by the Organization of African Unity at Lusaka, also in July, was the principal focus of attention. The Ministerial Declaration adopted by the Council at the conclusion of the session gives clear direction to the United Nations system to rally behind the unified framework that African leaders have launched. Through the Declaration, the Council established itself as the main global forum for mobilizing the support of the United Nations system and the international community at large for the Initiative and the newly created African Union. I am pleased at the high-level participation of Africa and the clear demonstration of its intention to take control of its own destiny.

187. The Economic and Social Council placed particular emphasis on the link between peace and development and the need to ensure that the momentum towards democracy and economic reform was sustained. It called for effective international support for Africa, including in addressing the HIV/AIDS crisis, improving market access and providing deeper and broader debt relief and increased official development assistance. The United Nations system will have to play a central role in mobilizing international support in order to achieve those objectives.

188. In its Ministerial Declaration, the Council noted in particular the call made by African heads of State for a special session of the General Assembly to consider how best to support the New African Initiative and requested me to explore the feasibility of creating a

subregional coordinating capacity for peace-building and an ad hoc advisory group of the Economic and Social Council on countries emerging from conflict.

189. While international support remains essential, ultimately African countries themselves are best placed to overcome the pressing challenges that confront the continent, and it is encouraging to see the renewed determination of Africans to do so. The full engagement of the Economic Commission for Africa is especially important. The Compact for African Recovery, presented to ECA at its thirty-fourth session, held at Algiers in May 2001, represents an important component of the ECA response to the implementation of the Millennium Declaration.

190. The priority areas of the Compact include promoting good governance, peace and security; tackling diseases that accentuate poverty; developing human resources; promoting infrastructure expansion; advancing regional integration; enhancing Africa's competitiveness through the utilization of information and communication technologies and economic diversification; sustaining high economic growth rates; expanding market access and trade; and ensuring external resource flows, including debt relief.

191. United Nations entities remain deeply involved in a wide range of African development issues. In 2000, WFP assisted almost 35 million people with food deliveries, 51 per cent of them women, in sub-Saharan Africa. Its operations in that area now include 76 development projects, 20 long-term relief and recovery operations and 47 emergency operations.

192. UNDP continues to promote participatory approaches to poverty reduction through partnership arrangements with civil society organizations. Moreover, in countries in special development situations, such as Angola and Burundi, UNDP has played an important role in ensuring that humanitarian concerns do not eclipse broader dialogue on poverty eradication or environmental protection. Together with other partners, UNDP has also invested in democratic governance in Africa by supporting electoral processes and parliaments.

193. UNIFEM has implemented a series of strategies to address the multidimensional nature of poverty in Africa. It has emphasized the importance of building the capacity of small-scale businesses owned by women. Linking women producers and entrepreneurs with external markets, the initiative also supports women's participation in non-traditional fields and assists with microfinance projects. The UNIFEM project Promoting Women's Rights to Economic Security in countries of the Southern African Development Community safeguards women's economic security by strengthening their capacity and skills at the local, national and regional levels.

194. A number of United Nations entities, including UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and UNESCO, have worked to provide sexual and reproductive health information, counselling and services to youth and adolescents in Africa. With funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and in cooperation with Pathfinder International, UNFPA has created the African Youth Alliance to reduce the rate of HIV/AIDS infection among adolescents. Support from the United Nations Foundation has permitted UNFPA to support similar programmes in Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Sao Tome and Principe, and Senegal. UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO and UNIFEM are working together to build on the success of UNIFEM in promoting alternative rites of passage to combat female genital mutilation. To date, 16 countries have outlawed the practice.

195. Child survival and improvements in child and maternal health remain a priority in Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa continued to receive the greatest share of UNICEF programme expenditure, which in 2000 amounted to $391 million, or 38 per cent of total spending. This represents an increase of 15 per cent over 1999 expenditure. Under its Bamako Initiative, UNICEF is contributing to the revitalization of health systems and community participation. The Initiative has improved the quality of services and access to basic health care in 7,000 health centres in 13 countries. The UNICEF African Girls' Education Initiative, implemented in partnership with the Government of Norway, has afforded an increasing number of African girls in, for example, Cameroon, Chad, Eritrea, Senegal and Uganda the opportunity to attend school and receive an improved basic education. The Initiative will expand its support to 31 African countries, including some torn by civil strife.

Chapter IV
The international legal order and human rights

Human rights development

196. Bridging the gap between human rights norms and their implementation continues to pose a substantial challenge for the United Nations. The Commission on Human Rights plays a crucial role in meeting this challenge by providing a forum for discussion, in which more than 60 heads of State or Government, Ministers for Foreign Affairs or other Ministers participated in the past year. In addition to the 53 States members of the Commission, almost all the remaining Members of the United Nations now attend meetings of the Commission as observers. Nearly all the United Nations agencies, 10 intergovernmental organizations and about 250 non-governmental organizations participated in the Commission's fifty-seventh session. Forty-two special rapporteurs, independent experts, and chairpersons of bodies and groups submitted country and thematic reports. Those reports painted a bleak picture of the status of human rights in the world today.

197. Some progress was made during the Commission's fifty-seventh session, but the task of achieving universal respect for human rights remains daunting. Eighty-two resolutions, 19 decisions, and three statements by the Chairperson were adopted, addressing the human rights situation in more than 20 countries and territories, they focused on numerous themes such as summary executions, torture, religious intolerance, violence against women, the right to development, and human rights and extreme poverty. This year, the Commission addressed new topics and made particular advances in the protection of the human rights of indigenous peoples by appointing a special rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people. The Special Rapporteur will gather, request, receive and exchange information and communications from all relevant sources, including Governments, indigenous people themselves, and their communities and organizations, on violations of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. This is a particularly appropriate step in view of the General Assembly's emphasis on enhancing the rights of vulnerable groups, as expressed in the Millennium Declaration, and the designation of the period 1994-2004 as the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. To stress the specific human rights dimension of indigenous matters, I designated the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as the lead agency for the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, established by the Economic and Social Council in July 2000. In addition to its work on indigenous issues, the Commission adopted a timely resolution concerning access to medication in the context of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS. It also requested the appointment of an independent expert to examine the question of a draft optional protocol, under which individual communications could be considered, to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and established a working group to draft a legally binding instrument for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance.

198. In addressing the Commission on 30 March 2001, I gave my full support to the High Commissioner for Human Rights in her efforts to ensure the success of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held at Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 7 September 2001. Racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance are scourges that must be fought and defeated. The High Commissioner, acting in her capacity as the Secretary-General of the Conference, and her Office have organized five regional seminars of experts, at Geneva, Warsaw, Bangkok, Addis Ababa and Santiago. Four regional intergovernmental conferences have already been held at Strasbourg, Santiago, Dakar and Tehran. The Durban Conference has great potential to give people around the world both help and hope in the fight against discrimination.

199. During the Millennium Summit, I renewed my call upon States to ratify the six core United Nations human rights treaties, and many have done so. Protecting the vulnerable is a crucial task. One significant development is the entry into force, on 22 December 2000, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Protocol contains a communications procedure that allows submission of claims of violations of rights protected under the Convention, and an inquiry procedure enabling the Committee to initiate inquiries into situations of grave

or systematic violations of women's rights. Progress has also been made with regard to the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Both protocols were adopted by the General Assembly on 25 May 2000. The Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict has already been signed by 80 States, with four States parties. The Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography has been signed by 73 States, three of which have already become parties. Each Protocol requires ratification or accession by 10 States parties to become enforceable.

200. The six United Nations treaty bodies continue to provide a framework for national action to enhance the protection of human rights. New general recommendations have been adopted by various committees addressing issues such as the right to education, HIV/AIDS, equality and the gender-related dimension of racial discrimination.

201. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights continued its technical cooperation efforts to assist States in the protection and promotion of human rights. At present, the Office is responding directly to requests from some 60 Member States to create or strengthen national human rights capacities and infrastructures. As the system-wide focal point for human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and in an effort to continue mainstreaming human rights, the Office has strengthened its partnerships with other parts of the system. Creating new linkages between human rights policy expertise and field-level development, peacekeeping and humanitarian capacities has proved useful in these endeavours. In response, 2001 has seen more rights-based development programmes, more rights-sensitive humanitarian operations, and more rights-attentive peacekeeping operations.

202. The dissemination of information on human rights issues has improved in 2000-2001. The Office's strategy for securing, processing and sharing human rights information has involved human rights research activities, reference and documentation services, publications and web-publishing efforts. The web site of the Office offers comprehensive information on the United Nations human rights programme and activities and gives access to essential human rights documents. In June 2001, the web site received a record high of 5 million hits.

The International Criminal Court

203. The Preparatory Commission for the International Criminal Court held its sixth session in November/December 2000, and its seventh session in February/March 2001. The eighth session will be held from 24 September to 5 October 2001. At its sixth session, the Preparatory Commission considered issues relating to the financing, privileges and immunities, and relationship agreements of the Court, as well as the crime of aggression. At its seventh session, it considered the rules of procedure of the Assembly of States Parties. Substantial progress was made on all five of these items. At its eighth session, the Preparatory Commission will consider the budget of the Court for its first financial year and the basic principles of a headquarters agreement between the Court and the host country.

204. A total of 139 States had signed the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court by 31 December 2000, the last day on which it was open for signature. To date, 37 States have ratified the statute. These figures are encouraging and there is no doubt that the statute will enter into force soon. The adoption of the Rome Statute has opened a new chapter in international law. A comprehensive legal and institutional regime now exists in the field of international criminal justice, something that will certainly affect the conduct of States but, more importantly, will guide and shape the behaviour of individuals. Much remains to be done to operationalize that regime and make it effective. I appeal to States not only to establish their consent to be bound by the Rome Statute as soon as possible but also to support, by every means, the important cause of the Court.

205. Some Governments and their peoples remain wary of this enterprise. I find it hard to believe, though, that their scepticism flows from any disagreement with the importance of compliance with international humanitarian law, much less from any principled opposition to the notion that those who are guilty of the most atrocious crimes known to humanity should be tried and punished. I would encourage those who remain unconvinced by the project of a permanent International Criminal Court to reflect on the central principle of Nürnberg and Tokyo, namely, that those who commit or authorize war crimes and other serious violations of international humanitarian law are individually accountable for their crimes, and the

community of States can and should bring them to justice.

The International Tribunals

International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

206. During the past year, there were several major developments in the work of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. These developments should significantly enhance the Tribunal's ability to discharge its mandate to prosecute those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia, and to contribute to the maintenance of peace and security in the region, while enabling the Tribunal to complete its work by 2008.

207. Major reforms enhancing the efficiency of the Tribunal's operations and expediting the commencement and completion of trials have been made. In November 2000, the Security Council amended the statute of the International Tribunal to provide for a pool of 27 judges to help its 16 permanent judges to conduct and complete trials as the need arises. In a major demonstration of support for the Tribunal, 34 States in all regions of the world responded to my invitation for nominations and, among them, proposed no fewer than 64 candidates for election. In June 2001, the General Assembly elected 27 of those candidates to the Tribunal. Other significant reforms have included an increase in the capacity of the Tribunal's Appeals Chamber, and a series of amendments to the Tribunal's Rules of Procedure and Evidence, the most noteworthy of which is that barring "interlocutory" or provisional appeals.

208. As regards States' cooperation with the Tribunal, the most notable event over the past year was the apprehension and subsequent transfer to the Tribunal of the former President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Slobodan Milosevic, on 28 June 2001. This marked the beginning of a new era in the development of international criminal justice. The surrender, arraignment and forthcoming trial of an accused person who was, until very recently, a head of State, represents a major victory in the international community's fight against impunity and a decisive step towards a world governed in accordance with the rule of law. The voluntary surrender of Biljana Plavsic and the transfer of Momcilo Krajišnik, two former high-ranking political figures, also represented major developments in the Tribunal's relations with the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

209. There are currently 39 accused persons held in the United Nations Detention Unit. Four trials, involving a total of 10 accused, are under way before the Tribunal's three Trial Chambers, and 10 other cases, involving a total of 16 accused, are in the pre-trial phase. Over the past year, the Tribunal has tried and sentenced five individuals. Each of the five has appealed against the sentence. One other accused has pleaded guilty and is awaiting sentencing. The Tribunal transferred three convicted persons to Member States to serve their sentences: two to Finland and one to Germany.

210. Following the electoral defeat of Mr. Milosevic, the Prosecutor reopened the Tribunal's field office in Belgrade in order to help investigators to resume their work in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Meanwhile, investigators completed work on exhumations in Kosovo that resulted in the discovery of the remains of some 4,000 individuals. The Prosecutor also commenced investigations into allegations against ethnic Albanian rebels in southern Serbia, the Kosovo Liberation Army, and groups involved in hostilities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Over the past year, the Prosecutor has personally dedicated a considerable amount of time and effort to encouraging Governments to arrest persons indicted by the Tribunal and to transfer them to The Hague to stand trial. It is gratifying that those efforts are now beginning to bear fruit.

International Tribunal for Rwanda

211. The Tribunal made significant advances during the past year. Amendments to the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, which lay down a framework for the admission of statements from other trials and impose stricter judicial controls on motions, will all help to speed up court proceedings. A generally more vigorous approach to the Tribunal's caseload has begun to yield positive results. The Appeals Chamber handed down final judgements in three cases, bringing the total number of cases disposed of on appeal to five. Meanwhile, Trial Chamber I completed the trial of one accused, who received the Tribunal's first acquittal.

212. Following the implementation of a "twin-track" approach, whereby each of the three Trial Chambers

simultaneously conducts two trials, a total of 15 accused persons are now on trial before the Tribunal in five cases. One of these cases, known as the Butare case, is the largest to date at the Tribunal, involving no less than six accused. Another trial, involving two accused, is scheduled to commence in September 2001, at which time the number of persons on trial will total 17. As these figures show, the Tribunal is discharging its mandate as effectively as possible given current resources.

213. At the same time, four accused were arrested and transferred to the Tribunal's detention facility in Arusha. They were Samuel Musabyimana, a former Bishop of the Anglican Church in Rwanda; Simeon Nshamihigo, a defence investigator; and two former mayors, Sylvestre Gabumbitsi and Jean Mpambara.

214. In November 2000, the Security Council decided to increase the number of judges in the Appeals Chambers of the two International Tribunals. Following the amendment of the Tribunal's statute, the General Assembly elected two new judges to the Tribunal on 24 April 2001, and the President of the Tribunal transferred two existing judges to the Appeals Chambers on 1 June 2001. It is hoped that this increase in the judicial capacity of both International Tribunals will expedite the disposition of the increasing numbers of appeals.

215. Regrettably, the first President of the Tribunal and the Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber II, Judge Laïty Kama of Senegal, passed away in Nairobi on 6 May 2001. Judge Kama was a man of the highest professional competence who was devoted to the cause of justice and the promotion and protection of human rights, and who fulfilled his duties with dignity and integrity. On 31 May 2001, I appointed Judge Andrésia Vaz, President of the Court of Cassation of Senegal, to fill the position.

Enhancing the rule of law

216. Over the past year, the Organization has taken further decisive steps towards strengthening respect for the rule of law in international affairs. In August 2000, the Security Council charged me with negotiating and concluding an agreement with the Government of Sierra Leone for the establishment of an independent special court. It will try persons bearing the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian law, as well as crimes under relevant Sierra Leonean law. At my request, the Office of Legal Affairs prepared a draft Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone on the Establishment of the Special Court, and a draft statute for the Court, and negotiated both of these instruments with the Government of Sierra Leone. The members of the Security Council have given their agreement, in principle, to their contents.

217. At my request, the Office of Legal Affairs has also initiated a process of informal consultations with a group of interested States on practical arrangements for the implementation of the Agreement, including establishing a management committee, budget estimates and Court premises. In view of the response to my appeal for voluntary contributions in funds, personnel and equipment, initial arrangements for the operation of the Court have been modified, to align them with the level of available funding. Once the resources are sufficient to fund the establishment and operation of the Court, the Agreement will be concluded with the Government of Sierra Leone, and the legal framework needed for the Court to begin to function will be established.

218. At the Millennium Summit, I encouraged States to sign, ratify and accede to treaties of which I am the depositary. Specific attention was paid to a core group of 25 multilateral treaties that represent the objectives of the Charter and reflect the Organization's values. I was deeply gratified by the success of this initiative. During the Summit, no less than 84 States performed a total of 274 treaty actions — 187 signatures and 87 ratifications and accessions — in respect of 40 of the more than 500 treaties for which I act as the depositary. Particularly satisfying were the 12 signatures and four ratifications of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and the seven ratifications of, or accessions to, the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. In view of this positive response, I have decided to organize a similar event, albeit on a somewhat smaller scale, during the special session of the General Assembly on children and the general debate at the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly. This event will focus on 23 multilateral treaties relating to the advancement of the rights of women.

219. Many States fail to sign or ratify treaties, not because of any lack of political will, but because of a simple shortage of technical expertise when it comes to

the implementation of treaty provisions. Consequently, the Office of Legal Affairs is preparing a handbook that will provide guidance to Governments on the execution of treaty formalities. This practical guide will be issued in the six official languages of the Organization and will be supplemented by training sessions for government lawyers, organized with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. It is not enough simply for States to establish their consent to be bound by treaties, however, States must also implement and respect the obligations which those treaties impose.

220. One of the central objectives of the United Nations is to assist Governments in establishing the necessary conditions for compliance with treaty commitments. The Organization already undertakes a broad range of actions to this end, helping Governments to draft national implementing legislation and supporting training programmes for those involved in its application. Over the past year, the Office of Legal Affairs has worked to increase awareness of the various forms of technical assistance that the Organization can provide to Governments in this respect.

221. That the law should be accessible to those whom it is meant to guide is a central precept of the rule of law. Mindful of this, the Office of Legal Affairs is working to make the entire corpus of modern international treaty law directly available to legal practitioners, diplomats, non-governmental organizations and ordinary citizens by publishing on the Internet the complete texts of more than 50,000 treaties that were registered with the Secretariat prior to May 1998. Ordinary citizens, civil society and corporations should thus be in a better position to ensure that they are accorded their rights and benefits and that they, in turn, respect their duties, under international law.

Legal affairs

222. The past year was particularly productive for the International Law Commission. The Commission adopted a set of draft articles on responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts, thus concluding work that had been on its agenda for almost 50 years. The Commission also adopted a set of draft articles on the prevention of transboundary harm from hazardous activities and advanced work on a number of other topics, notably, reservations to treaties, unilateral acts of States and diplomatic protection.

223. At its session in 2001, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law adopted two major texts, the draft Convention on Assignment of Receivables in International Trade and the Model Law on Electronic Signatures. The draft Convention, which was referred to the General Assembly for conclusion, will enhance the availability of credit at more affordable rates, thus facilitating international trade and a more equitable distribution of the benefits of international trade among all peoples. The Model Law on Electronic Signatures is aimed at facilitating electronic commerce by promoting a safe environment for all participants to share in the benefits of modern technology. The Commission also took note of ongoing work on arbitration and insolvency and decided to begin work in the fields of electronic contracting, transport law, privately financed infrastructure projects and secured transactions.

224. The past year has seen no less than 83 ratifications of, and accessions to, the 12 existing global conventions for the prevention and suppression of international terrorism. Particularly gratifying is the fact that 16 States ratified or acceded to the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, which, as a result, entered into force on 23 May 2001. The Ad Hoc Committee and the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly commenced work on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Efforts to resolve outstanding issues regarding plans for an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism continue.

225. In 1999, the General Assembly launched consultations to facilitate its annual review of developments in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea. The second series was held in May 2001 and addressed illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, marine science, piracy and the economic and social impacts of marine degradation, particularly in coastal areas.

226. The Office of Legal Affairs advised UNMIK and UNTAET on the exercise of their legislative and executive authority. In particular, it assisted the two Administrations in establishing legal frameworks for transitional, democratic and autonomous self-governing institutions. The Office continued to provide legal advice to the Organization's other peacekeeping

missions. In particular, it participated in the negotiation of several status-of-forces and status-of-mission agreements, the finalization of the Agreement between the United Nations and Ethiopia concerning the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea and the Agreement between the United Nations and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia concerning the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo. Further, the Office provided legal advice to participants in the Burundi peace process under former President Nelson Mandela's facilitation, and contributed to implementing recommendations made by the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations.

227. The Office of Legal Affairs successfully defended the Organization in complex arbitration proceedings involving a $20 million claim; assisted in the resolution of claims against the Organization arising out of its peacekeeping operations; cooperated with host State authorities in recovering nearly $750,000 worth of Member States' contributions to the United Nations Environment Programme that had erroneously been credited to a private individual's bank account; assisted in negotiating a number of agreements with the private sector; and provided advice on implementation of the "oil-for-food" programme, including negotiation of agreements to facilitate the diversification and better protection of its assets.

Chapter V
Enhancing management

Administration and management

228. Member States have continued to support management reform within the United Nations and have endorsed detailed proposals in three priority areas: human resources reform, information technology policy, and the capital master plan. The Organization is now equipped to operate more efficiently and effectively and to make the best use of its financial and human resources.

Human resources reform

229. Comprehensive human resources reform, unanimously agreed to by Member States, will change the Organization's management culture. It will enable the Secretariat to be more flexible and responsive in its use of human resources, a necessity given the evolution of the United Nations from a headquarters-based organization into one with a strong field presence. The reforms will modernize the Organization's human resources management standards and strengthen its capacity to recruit, develop and manage its staff.

Capitalizing on technology

230. The United Nations information technology strategy, designed to promote access to and sharing of information, support field operations, strengthen technical infrastructure, build human resources capacity, and launch an e-administration, will ensure a coordinated approach to technical challenges. An example of work already under way is the Integrated Information Management System (IMIS). This electronic administration system for human resources, finance, accounts and procurement, is being installed throughout the Secretariat, and will serve to anchor future technological improvements in this rapidly changing field. We are poised to establish field connectivity so that we can use IMIS for the Organization's operations around the globe. Ongoing efforts to render the system more user-friendly will encourage its use and therefore increase productivity.

Capital master plan

231. The capital master plan, including its financing components, was submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session. Member States supported its plans for the proactive refurbishing of the Headquarters complex, and a comprehensive design plan and detailed cost analysis are in preparation.

Future challenges

232. Numerous other reform initiatives, at various stages of implementation, are under way. Procurement reform has been successfully completed, and the simplification and streamlining of the Organization's rules and procedures is progressing smoothly. The electronic personnel manual is now available through the Intranet, and has proved to be an invaluable tool for responsible, consistent and uniform managerial action. We are continually shifting to a more results-based mode of operation. Performance indicators are being introduced at all levels; for example, in the financial area, through the introduction of results-based budgeting, and in the personnel area, through refinements in the performance evaluation system.

233. The Secretariat will continue to implement comprehensive management reform, introducing best management practices and technologies, so that limited resources are made available for priorities. It will complete and implement a Key Item Management Reporting System, make productivity a managerial responsibility, and extend IMIS, with its far-reaching management control functions, to all major duty stations and peacekeeping missions. Innovations will continue to be introduced in the context of the overall information technology strategy. Human resources management reform will also continue. The introduction and refinement of performance measurements, through the performance appraisal system, and through the introduction of results-based budgeting, are geared towards ensuring the delivery of high-priority services identified by Member States.

234. The introduction of sunset provisions in all of the Organization's legislative directives, another important step towards revitalizing the Organization, still awaits acceptance by Member States. Once adopted, sunset provisions will orient the Organization's work programme to high-priority tasks as they evolve.

Financial situation

235. In the area of fiscal responsibility, the United Nations has demonstrated consistent budgetary discipline. There has been no budgetary growth over the last four biennia, and there has even been a reduction in the Organization's budget. The Organization has absorbed the effects of inflation and a large number of unfunded mandates. At the same time, it has succeeded in reallocating resources from low priority areas and administrative services to higher priority programmes identified by Member States. While many Member States have responded to Secretariat efforts to improve the collection of current and outstanding assessments, a number of major contributors have paid none or only part of their dues. This has forced the United Nations to borrow from peacekeeping accounts to offset the earlier and larger than usual deficit currently being experienced. It is clear that the United Nations cannot function effectively unless all Member States pay their dues, in full, on time and without conditions.

Accountability and oversight

236. Since its creation in 1994, the Office of Internal Oversight Services has evolved from a collection of small autonomous units reporting to the Administration into an independent, integrated Office providing a comprehensive range of internal oversight services. It is now recognized — both within and outside the Organization — as an objective source of reliable information and an agent of change in the United Nations.

237. The work of the Office of Internal Oversight Services extends from audits to consulting, evaluations, monitoring, inspections and investigations. It produces semi-annual overall performance assessments of the departments and offices under my charge. During the past year, oversight activities resulted in over 2,000 recommendations related to strengthening internal controls and improving management performance, and identified some $58 million in potential cost savings and recoveries. The number of recommendations is significantly higher than that reported in previous years. In order to reflect its widening global coverage, the Office is for the first time also making recommendations issued through observations made at the operating level in the field. The emphasis of the Office on full implementation of its recommendations results in ongoing dialogue between it and the rest of the Organization. To focus on areas that warrant special monitoring, the Office has recently developed criteria to identify those of its recommendations that have a critical and far-reaching impact on the Organization's operations.

238. The Office of Internal Oversight Services has convened several senior staff workshops to address strategic oversight planning issues such as maximizing the value added to the Organization, making greater use of information technology, and improving staff competencies. Achievement of the Office's oversight goals ultimately depends on the quality of the work it produces and the significance and impact of its recommendations. It is therefore critical for the Office to use the most up-to-date oversight techniques and procedures, such as those used by advanced private and public sector oversight entities.

239. As a result of a strategic planning exercise, which began last year, the Office of Internal Oversight Services proposes to merge its monitoring, evaluation, inspection and consulting functions. This will allow for a more synthesized gathering of qualitative data, facilitating the preparation of programme performance reports, as requested by the intergovernmental bodies. The Office also proposes to strengthen the investigations subprogramme to cope with the increasing number of cases received, and to establish an office at Geneva to deliver more responsive and coordinated oversight services there.

240. As the United Nations has become more field-based, it has delegated increased levels of authority in areas such as procurement and human resources management. This obliges us to ensure that proper controls are in place in the field, and that adequate checks and balances exist. It is encouraging to note that the Office of Internal Oversight Services has increased its oversight of field activities, including the operations of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the Office of the Iraq Programme.

Audit management and consulting

241. The Audit and Management Consulting Division placed special emphasis on audits of peacekeeping operations, humanitarian and related activities, human resources management and procurement of goods and

services. The Division also conducted management audits addressing some of the major reform issues facing the Organization, such as recruitment.

242. The Division has expanded audit coverage of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Audits were conducted at Headquarters and numerous field missions during the past year. Resident auditors assigned to major peacekeeping missions provided continuous audit coverage and assisted management in establishing appropriate internal controls. Resident auditors have been posted to Abidjan and Nairobi to cover the decentralized operations of UNHCR in Africa, and to provide audit and management advice to the regional directors. As a temporary measure, resident auditors have also been assigned to UNHCR emergency operations in East Timor and Kosovo.

Investigations

243. The Investigations Section carries out internal oversight responsibilities by examining reports of violations of United Nations regulations, rules and pertinent administrative issuances to ensure greater staff member accountability and to protect the Organization's resources. During the reporting period, the Section received over 400 new cases and produced 36 reports containing its recommendations to the relevant programme. Recommendations were also made in several cases where staff members were cleared of allegations of wrong-doing, as the evidence gathered during the investigations did not substantiate the report received.

244. At the invitation of my Special Representatives in Kosovo and in East Timor, the Section opened Resident Investigator offices in UNMIK and UNTAET to provide a range of investigative services to the missions, and help to train staff to build the investigation capacity of the civilian administration.

245. Major investigations conducted during the reporting period included the misdirection of funds at UNEP and an investigation into allegations of fee-splitting between defence counsel and indigent detainees at the International Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. The Office of Internal Oversight Services also led an international task force investigating bribery and extortion of refugees in Kenya seeking resettlement, which resulted in the arrest of nine people.

Central monitoring and inspection

246. The Central Monitoring and Inspection Unit conducted inspections of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services, and the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention. From the inspection of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs it was concluded that the Department had promoted greater policy and programme coherence and provided more effective substantive support to the intergovernmental and inter-agency machineries. Improvements need to be made in evaluating development cooperation activities and implementing organization-wide executive decisions.

247. The inspection of Conference Services showed that streamlining technical support services had allowed for improved planning and more rational resource allocation, and enhanced the efficiency of services provided to intergovernmental and expert bodies. Further feedback mechanisms, such as surveys, would improve the quality of its services. In its inspection of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, the Office of Internal Oversight Services observed that that Office was being run in a highly centralized and arbitrary manner. No consistent system for programme oversight was in place, and the absence of clearly defined delegation of authority clouded accountability. Member States, including donors and recipients of services, indicated that this had adversely affected fulfilment of its mandates and implementation of some projects. The Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention accepted all of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and initiated a series of measures to improve the situation.

Central evaluation

248. The Central Evaluation Unit examined the population and sustainable development programmes of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the past year. The examination found that the value of the Population Division's reports and publications as reference work, and their comprehensiveness and technical quality, is well recognized, and that the Division has made a significant contribution to the understanding of international migration. The evaluation of the sustainable development programme focused on current programme implementation issues. The Office of Internal Oversight Services recommended actions to improve support for

intergovernmental processes, streamline reporting and enhance the quality of information presented. All the evaluation recommendations were endorsed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-first session, in June 2001.

249. The Unit also completed triennial reviews of the implementation of the recommendations resulting from in-depth evaluations of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. The Office of Internal Oversight Services found that, although some of the recommendations were implemented satisfactorily, the overall level of implementation was somewhat disappointing, as the Drug Control Programme had not addressed the underlying problems identified in the evaluation. The Office of Internal Oversight Services is monitoring implementation of those recommendations that have not yet been implemented.

Chapter VI
Partnerships

Communications

250. As I noted in my previous annual report, the United Nations has succeeded in forging global partnerships that would hardly have been conceivable even a decade ago. These partnerships continue to be strengthened by the Organization's communications and information strategy, which rests on a clear understanding that the goals of the United Nations can be met only if an informed public understands its mission.

251. The world is assailed by an information overload, and yet we are charged with the responsibility of giving a public face and discernible meaning to the activities and programmes of the Organization. For the Department of Public Information, this has meant integrating otherwise diverse operations into strategic global advocacy campaigns. The Department has highlighted tangible results of the major international conferences convened by the United Nations over the past year. Several initiatives, including the "UN works" campaign, capturing the direct impact of the Organization on the lives of people; a documentary film on light weapons, *Armed to the Teeth*; and a United Nations in Action report on human rights and special features on health issues in Africa in the *United Nations Chronicle* have contributed to articulating the importance of achieving the goals of the Millennium Declaration.

252. As the Millennium Declaration affirms, the benefits of new information and communication technologies must be available to all. This mandate drives our efforts to provide developing countries with immediate access to news developments at the United Nations. The global growth in Internet and email access, including in the least developed countries, has allowed us to communicate rapidly and in real time with the media of developing countries. Most of those media entities have no representation at the United Nations, and email and web-based news services are of enormous service and interest to them.

253. A daily news service has been established on the United Nations web site, reporting on and providing links to United Nations activities, operations, documents and other sources of information available electronically, including direct links from the field, complete with digital images. The news service is part of the United Nations News Centre, specifically designed to be an electronic gateway to news throughout the United Nations system, helping to ensure timely and global access to information on the Organization. In addition, an email news alert system is being put in place as a more direct and proactive means of electronic communication to target audiences. A similar system is already regularly used to alert media in all parts of the world to important developments.

254. The launch of daily news bulletins by United Nations Radio in the six official languages of the Organization is a further dramatic example of the Department reaching out to cross the "digital divide" between developed and developing countries. Transmitted to hundreds of radio stations in all regions of the world, these live radio broadcasts have a daily audience of tens of millions. More than 100 radio and television networks have received public service announcements relating to the commemoration of this Year of Dialogue among Civilizations. The United Nations web site, also in all official languages, has averaged 4 million hits a day this year, twice the number in 2000. The multilingualism essential to this success is being fostered creatively: an agreement is being finalized, for instance, with a number of universities in Spain to provide translations of material on the web site into Spanish. United Nations Information Centres expand the site's outreach further, with creatively tailored messages in the languages of their areas of operation.

255. Technology facilitates the channelling of traditional forms of information outreach, notably print, in a manner that is attractive, accessible and yet economical. Articles by outside contributors have highlighted the successes and the limitations of United Nations activities. Republishing individual articles in other media has also promoted a multiplier effect of the content.

256. Media outreach programmes continue to expand awareness of United Nations activities. United Nations Information Centres nurture relationships with local media, non-governmental organizations and the broader public to ensure that the Organization's

concerns are widely understood. With generous support from the Government of Japan, 15 journalists from Asia attended high-level briefings at United Nations Headquarters, and 19 participants joined the Department's annual training programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries.

257. In the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, digitalization of documents and creation of resource databases have rendered this world-class repository of information more accessible. In the past year, the Library responded to 60,000 individual reference queries and delivered electronic journals via email to readers.

258. The Department of Public Information continues to work actively to implement the Millennium Declaration's goal of giving "greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society, in general, to contribute to the realization of the Organization's goals and programmes". Those partners include 1,600 non-governmental organizations formally associated with the Department; participants in guided tours for whom a new, comprehensive "visitors' experience" is being planned; school students who have enthusiastically joined programmes devised on the electronic *Cyberschoolbus*; and the business community, which accesses procurement opportunities in developing countries through the print and on-line editions of *Development Business*. Further, the Department supports the political, economic and humanitarian actors within the United Nations through the Cartographic Section, which remains a vital resource to the Organization as a whole.

259. The communication revolution has thrown open new, and increasingly accessible, technologies, even as it offers fresh possibilities to enhance and energize existing means of dissemination. Today's resources are essential to redeem tomorrow's promise, however. As the Department of Public Information moves beyond reorientation to modernization, it is essential that it should not be compelled, by a multiplicity of mandates and a lack of realistic resources, to spread itself too thin.

United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

260. The United Nations continues to benefit from an ever-expanding range of partnerships with the business community, philanthropic foundations and civil society organizations. Private sector interest in cooperating with the United Nations is intensifying and my office is increasingly called upon to develop innovative partnerships with a wide range of civil society actors. The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) plays a vital role in developing networks to benefit the United Nations system. The Fund identifies new avenues for partnership with a wide range of external partners; provides advice on programme design; offers guidance on United Nations rules of procedure and funding modalities; and supports the creation of an enabling environment for corporate and individual philanthropy.

261. The Fund entered its fourth year in March 2001. As the counterpart of the United Nations Foundation, it has programmed nearly $385 million in support of more than 170 projects, involving 32 United Nations organizations in more than 100 countries. In 2001, the Fund added a peace, security and human rights portfolio to its ongoing programmes in children's health, environment, and women and population. In the past year, an additional $63 million in programme funds was mobilized from a wide range of partners. Together with the United Nations Foundation, UNFIP also encourages complementarity and coordination by bringing together United Nations organizations in joint programming.

262. The Fund has developed and continues to develop collaborative arrangements with the private sector and foundations, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Coca-Cola Company, Cisco Systems, Ericsson, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce World Markets, United Way International and others. In collaboration with UNAIDS and the Global Business Council on HIV/AIDS, for example, UNFIP served as a private sector interlocutor to support fund-raising efforts for HIV/AIDS. It also helped in the creation of a facility for the receipt of private sector funds by the United Nations Foundation, pending the establishment of the Global AIDS and Health Fund. UNFIP continues to provide coordination for the Health InterNetwork, administered by WHO, and the United Nations Information Technology Service, administered by the United Nations Volunteers. It will continue to focus on promoting partnerships to advance the goals of the Millennium Declaration.

Project services

263. The only completely self-financing entity in the United Nations system, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), finances itself on a fee-for-service basis. In 2000, UNOPS acquired new business valued at $948 million and delivered more than $471 million in services in over 2,600 projects worldwide. It also approved disbursement of $193 million in loans for projects it is supervising on behalf of the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

264. During the year, UNOPS worked predominantly to diversify its client base, building on its core relationship with UNDP. In 2000, acquisition of projects from new United Nations partners totalled an unprecedented $132 million, exceeding project acquisition from the regular resources of UNDP. In the first six months of 2001, demand for project services from clients other than UNDP approached a record $200 million.

265. New clients requesting UNOPS services included UNEP, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), UNMIK and UNTAET. In both East Timor and Kosovo, major procurement operations were carried out to support the United Nations efforts to establish interim governing structures. Its operations yielded a substantial cost savings to clients and contributed to building local capacity for reconstruction.

266. As project work on behalf of non-traditional clients grows, so do new partnerships characterized by a clear division of labour. While project funders retain responsibility for the expertise provided in the area of their mandate, UNOPS acts as a project manager, assuming responsibility for operational and commercial activity and managing the financial risks and liabilities inherent in the contracting process. The Office's comparative advantage in results-based management, and the potential to transfer this knowledge to the United Nations system at large, is increasingly recognized. In 2000, UNOPS provided management consultancy services to ESCAP to support its revitalization programme and to the Department of Technical Cooperation of IAEA to analyse workload pressures. Consulting services were also provided in Guatemala, where WFP asked the Office for assistance in formulating its country programme; at the request of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala, UNOPS provided consulting services to the Soros Foundation, the Centre for Legal Action and Human Rights and the Government of Norway on issues relating to the implementation of peace agreements and the follow-up of the Commission for Historical Clarification.

267. UNOPS efforts are expected to yield great results in 2001. Under its dedicated partnership regime, a new services offering, United Nations organizations may hire UNOPS to broker partnerships or to implement projects under existing partnership agreements. To date, 11 agreements have been signed with non-governmental organizations and private sector firms. One such partnership, funded by UNFIP, is bringing HIV/AIDS education to remote communities in Nepal. Another is transferring trade and business skills to local artisans in Mozambique. Such partnerships strengthen project delivery and attract new stakeholders whose support is critical to the global mandates of the United Nations.

Partnerships with civil society

268. Over the past year, cooperation with civil society, including a wide range of non-governmental organizations and the private sector, has continued to develop. Existing initiatives in the areas of policy dialogue and advocacy for United Nations values and activities are being consolidated. At the same time we are building new partnerships with the business community, non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors in order to promote information-sharing and learning, to support operational delivery and to mobilize private funds.

269. At the policy level, two notable developments have been the launch of the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force and the establishment of the high-level Policy Network on Youth Employment. Both of these cooperative efforts are drawing on the expertise and resources of non-governmental organizations, the private sector and academia, to help us increase our effectiveness in addressing critical development issues. Non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other civil society actors, including parliamentarians, are also providing valuable input to the preparations for the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in 2002, working closely with

the relevant United Nations bodies to share expertise, learn from existing experience, and propose future joint action.

270. My Global Compact initiative continues to evolve as a multi-stakeholder network focused on three core areas of activity, namely, learning, dialogue and action. The network now consists of several hundred companies, business associations, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations active in the areas of environment, labour, human rights and development. A key focus during the past 12 months has been to involve more companies and business associations from developing countries, and almost two thirds of our private sector participants are now from those countries. The International Labour Organization, UNEP, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNDP continue to play a central role, and other United Nations bodies are involved in specific areas of the initiative. UNCTAD, for example, is working with the International Chamber of Commerce and individual companies on a programme of investment deliverables for the least developed countries, including investment guides, linkages and advisory councils. The International Organization of Employers is working with the International Labour Organization to develop training materials on the Compact's nine principles for its national organizations in over 100 countries, and is cooperating with UNAIDS to strengthen the capacity of employers organizations to tackle HIV/AIDS, especially in Africa. Several regional commissions are using the Global Compact as a framework for dialogue and partnerships with the private sector in their regions. A learning forum has been established, managed by a consortium of academic institutions, and a policy dialogue has been initiated on the role of the private sector in zones of conflict. Individual companies are supporting development projects in partnership with the United Nations in areas such as HIV/AIDS, micro-credit, digital divide, diversity, and humanitarian and refugee support.

271. We continue to mobilize funds, product donations and volunteer support through the work of UNFIP, as well as advocacy and fund-raising programmes initiated by individual United Nations bodies, including UNICEF, UNDP, UNAIDS, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and UNHCR. These range from long-standing initiatives, such as the UNICEF Change for Good programme, to more recent cooperative efforts, such as NetAid and corporate support for our *UN works* cyber-magazine.

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